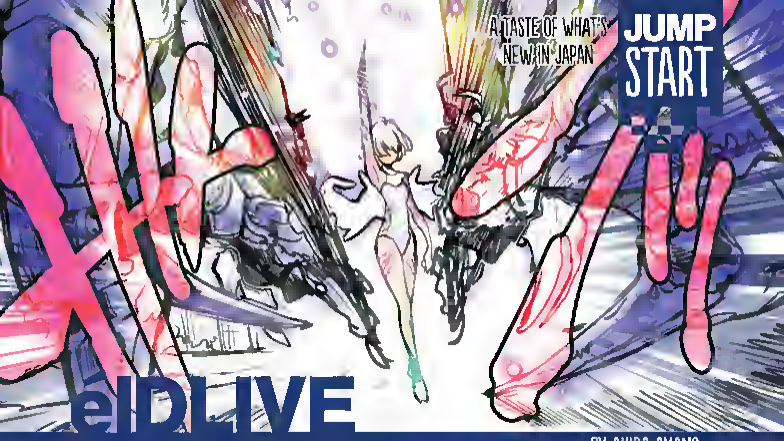


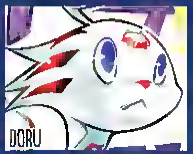
éIDLIVE

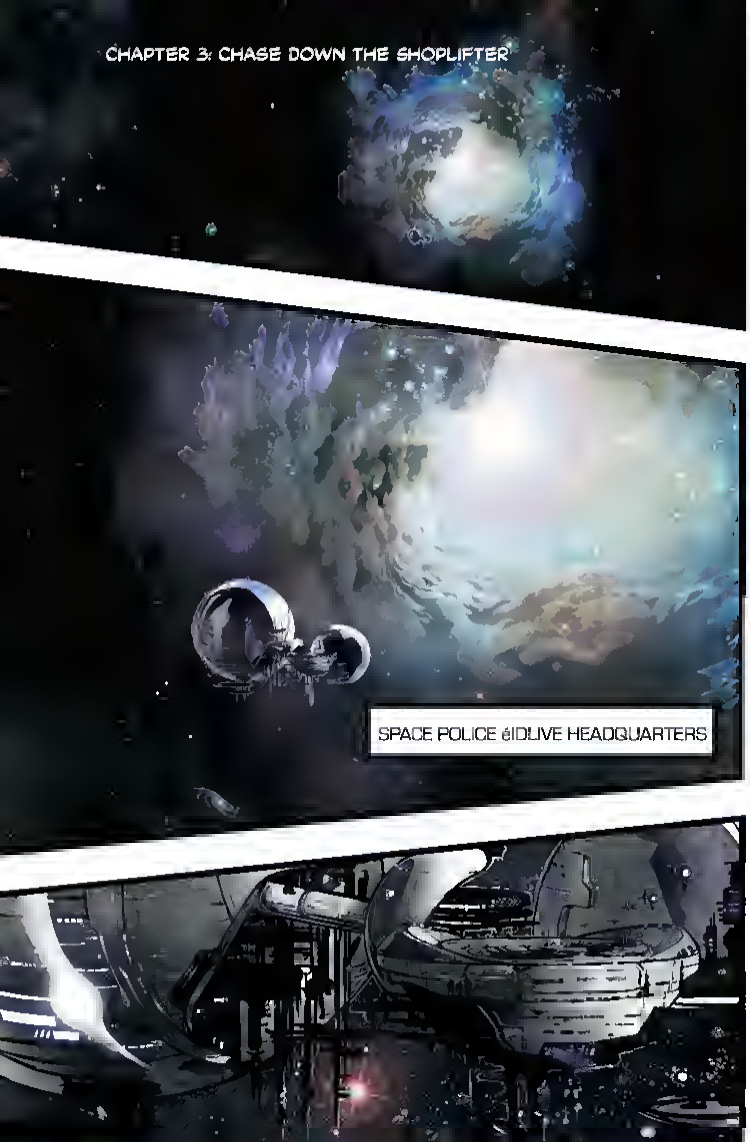
BY AKIRA AMANO

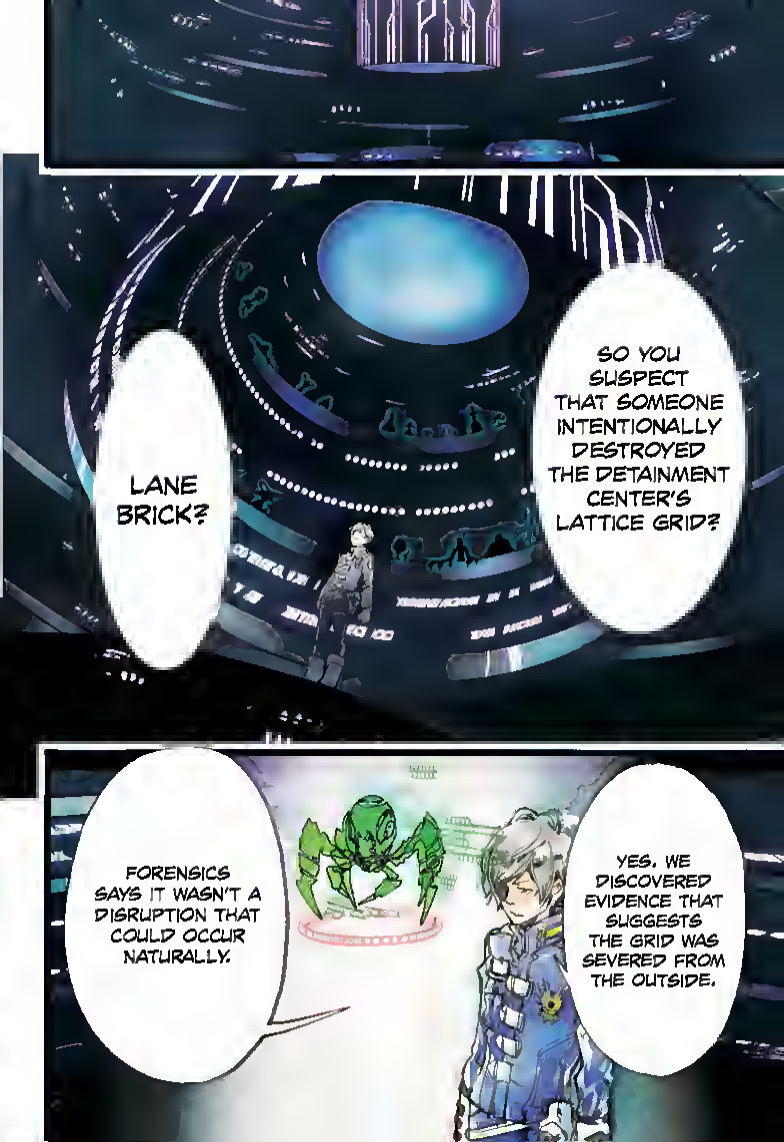
"Mumbling" Chuta Kokonose doesn't have many friends. In fact, the only conversations he has anymore are with the voices inside his head. Little does he know that this voice doesn't mean he's crazy. It just means he has an alien living inside his body!

PREVIOUSLY IN *éIDLIVE*:

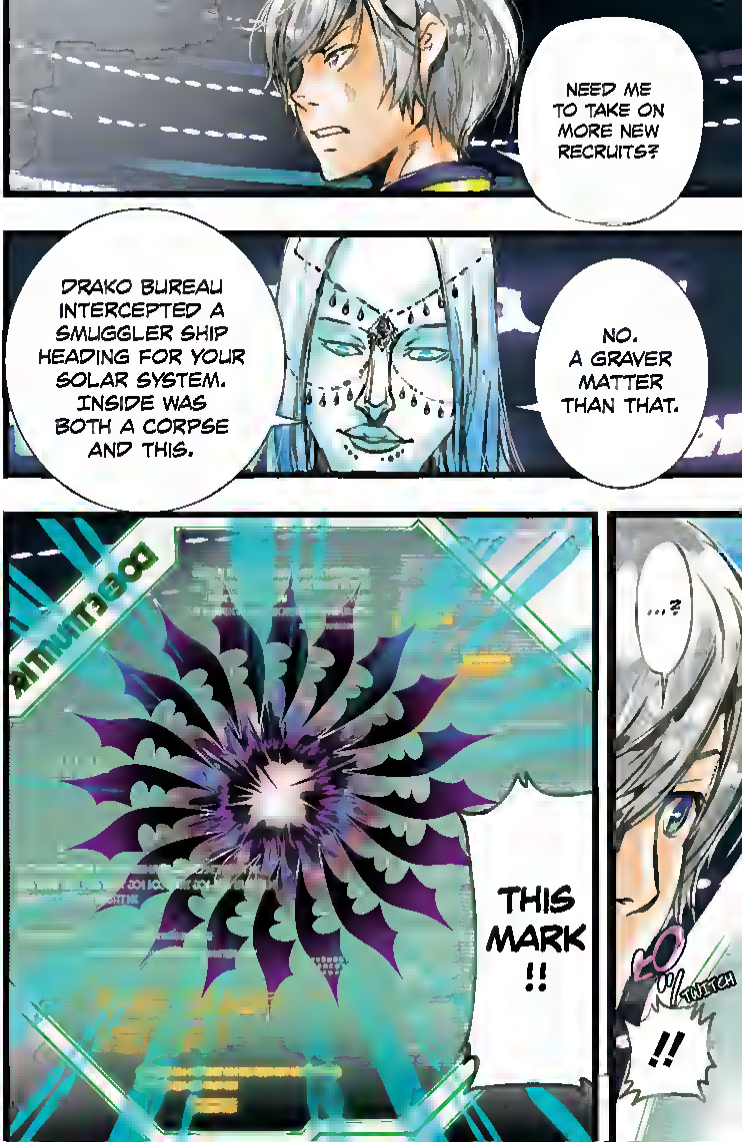
Chuta Kokonose isn't the dashing figure you'd expect from an intergalactic cop. He's just your average, run-of-the-mill kid with confidence issues. But one thing helps him stand out from the rest—Doru, his special alien partner that no one can see except Chuta! Doru's an extremely rare alien species that just so happens to live inside Chuta's body, and it's thanks to their connection that Chuta's able to defeat space criminals. But will lingering doubts be the downfall for the newly minted space-police duo?




CHAPTER 3: CHASE DOWN THE SHOPLIFTER
SPACE POLICE éIDLIVE HEADQUARTERS

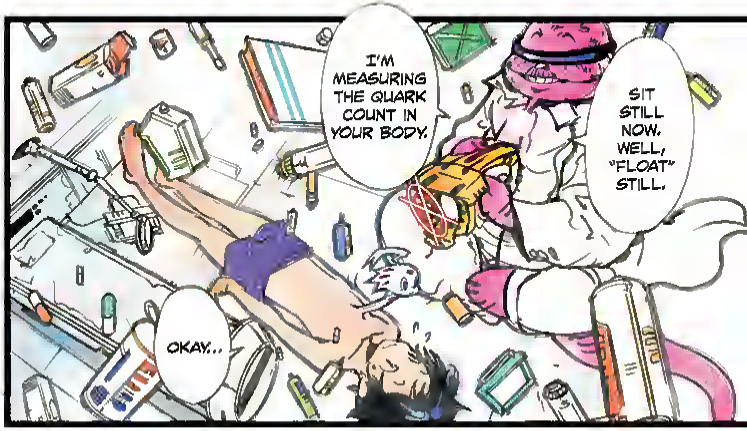

LANE BRICK?
SO YOU SUSPECT THAT SOMEONE INTENTIONALLY DESTROYED THE DETAINMENT CENTER'S LATTICE GRID?
FORENSICS SAYS IT WASN'T A DISRUPTION THAT COULD OCCUR NATURALLY.
YES. WE DISCOVERED EVIDENCE THAT SUGGESTS THE GRID WAS SEVERED FROM THE OUTSIDE.

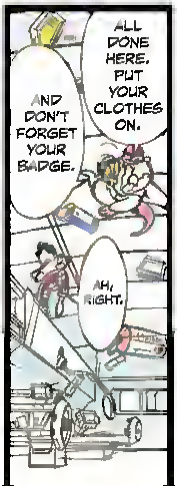
PERHAPS... A SPY?
IN OTHER WORDS, SOMEONE IN YOUR BUREAU AIDED THAT VICIOUS CRIMINAL'S ESCAPE?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT OUR INVESTIGATION IS PROCEEDING WITH THAT POSSIBILITY IN MIND.
WE TRUST YOU TO DEAL WITH THIS INCIDENT.
BUT YOU'VE BEEN CALLED HERE TODAY FOR ANOTHER REASON. THERE'S SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW.
THUMP
ANALYZING LANE BRICK'S SPH...
PERJURY UNDETECTED. LEVEL 60.


NEED ME TO TAKE ON MORE NEW RECRUITS?
NO. A GRAVER MATTER THAN THAT.
DRAKO BUREAU INTERCEPTED A SMUGGLER SHIP HEADING FOR YOUR SOLAR SYSTEM. INSIDE WAS BOTH A CORPSE AND THIS.
THIS MARK !!
...?
!!

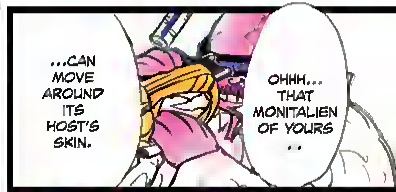
CHAPTER 3: CHASE DOWN THE SHOPLIFTER

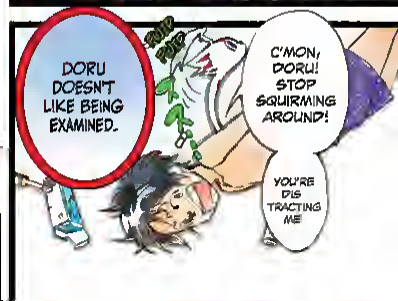
SICK BAY


I'M MEASURING THE QUARK COUNT IN YOUR BODY.
SIT STILL NOW. WELL, "FLOAT" STILL.
OKAY...

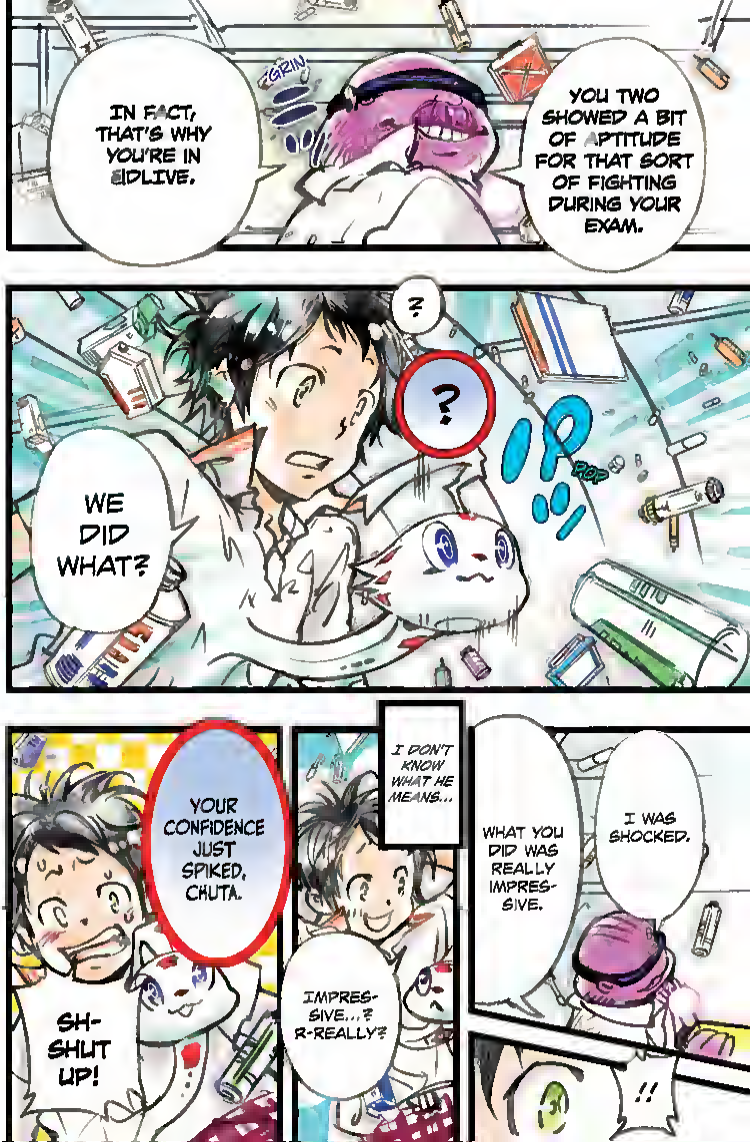

ALL DONE HERE. PUT YOUR CLOTHES ON.
AND DON'T FORGET YOUR BADGE.
AH, RIGHT.

IN ANY CASE, YOU'RE AN EARTHLING, SO THIS CALCULATION SHOULD BE SIMPLE.
OH YEAH?

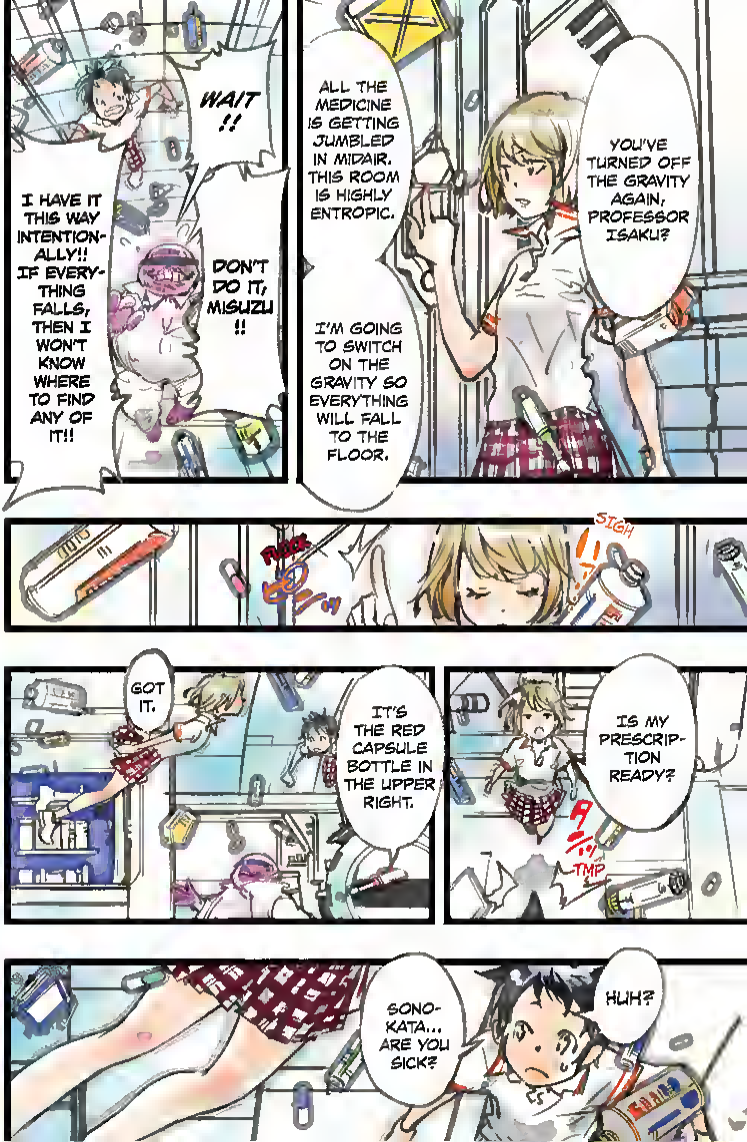

...CAN MOVE AROUND ITS HOST'S SKIN.
OHHH... THAT MONITALIEN OF YOURS..

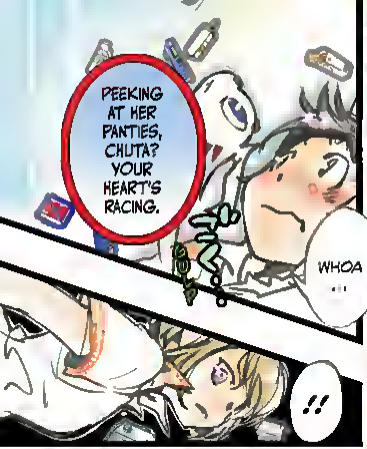

DORU DOESN'T LIKE BEING EXAMINED.
C'MON, DORU! STOP SQUIRMING AROUND!
YOU'RE DISTRACTING ME

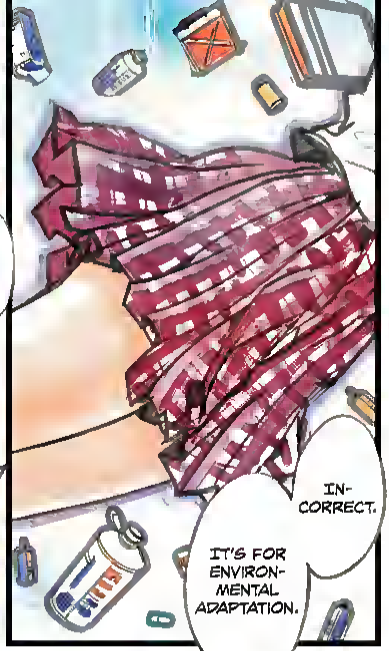
DOES @DLIVE REALLY ONLY PROVIDE ME WITH A BADGE AND HANDCUFFS? OH, AND MY EVENTUAL UNIFORM.
UM, PROFESSOR ISAKU.
...
HMM?
YOU HOPING FOR SOME-THING MORE?
HOW ABOUT A PISTOL? OR A NIGHT-STICK?
OR A TRANS-FORMING COSTUME?
?
PISTOL? NIGHTSTICK?
OH, THOSE MUST BE EARTHLING WEAPONS.
YEAH
POLICE ON EARTH STRAP THOSE TO THEIR BELTS WHEN ON THE JOB.
CRIMINALS IN SPACE FIGHT WITH METHODS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF EARTH'S SCIENCE.
THEY USE POWERFUL, MYSTERIOUS, LIFE-BASED TECHNIQUES.
THERE'D BE NO POINT IN GIVING YOU THOSE THINGS.
EARTHLING WEAPONS ARE COM-PLETELY USELESS.
HUH?


IN FACT, THAT'S WHY YOU'RE IN EDLIVE.
GRIN
YOU TWO SHOWED A BIT OF APTITUDE FOR THAT SORT OF FIGHTING DURING YOUR EXAM.
WE DID WHAT?
?
?
!?
GASP
SH-SHUT UP!
YOUR CONFIDENCE JUST SPIKED, CHUTA.
IMPRES-SIVE...? R-REALLY?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE MEANS...
WHAT YOU DID WAS REALLY IMPRES-SIVE.
I WAS SHOCKED.
!!

WE SPACE POLICE FIGHT WITH BODY ODOR. OFFICER SONOKATA ALSO USED IT TO TAKE CARE OF THE ESCAPED CRIMINAL, DRAGLINE.
INDEED.
B-BODY ODOR?!
BODY ODOR.
SO... WHAT'S THIS "POWERFUL LIFE-BASED TECHNIQUE"?
SHORT FOR "SPACE PHERO-MONES."
OFFICIALLY, IT'S CALLED SPH.
ACK.
MAKING IT SOUND SO DISGUSTING IS BORDERLINE SLANDER.
OHH, MISUZU!
SHOCK
THAT WAS MISUZU SONOKATA'S... ODOR?!
WHAT?!

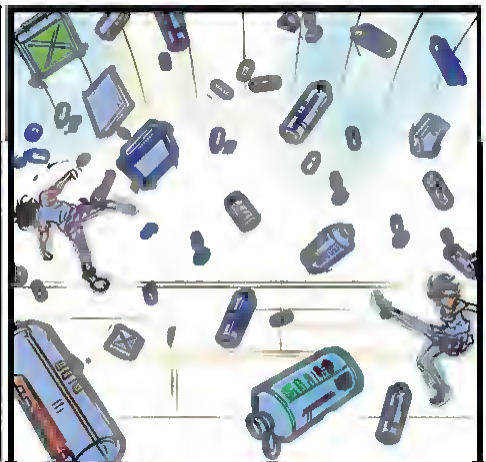

WAIT !!
I HAVE IT THIS WAY INTENTION-ALLY!! IF EVERY-THING FALLS, THEN I WON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND ANY OF IT!!
DON'T DO IT, MISUZU !!
ALL THE MEDICINE IS GETTING JUMBLED IN MIDAIR. THIS ROOM IS HIGHLY ENTROPIC.
I'M GOING TO SWITCH ON THE GRAVITY SO EVERYTHING WILL FALL TO THE FLOOR.
YOU'VE TURNED OFF THE GRAVITY AGAIN, PROFESSOR ISAKU?
FLOP
SIGH
GOT IT.
IT'S THE RED CAPSULE BOTTLE IN THE UPPER RIGHT.
IS MY PRESCRIP-TION READY?
TMP
SONO-KATA... ARE YOU SICK?
HUH?

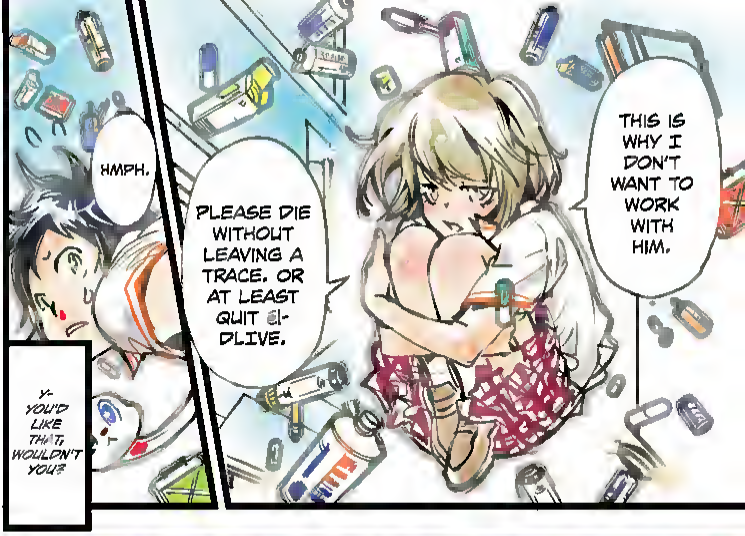

PEEKING AT HER PANTIES, CHUTA? YOUR HEART'S RACING.
WHOA...
!!


IN-CORRECT.
IT'S FOR ENVIRON-MENTAL ADAPTATION.

CRACK
PER-VERT !!

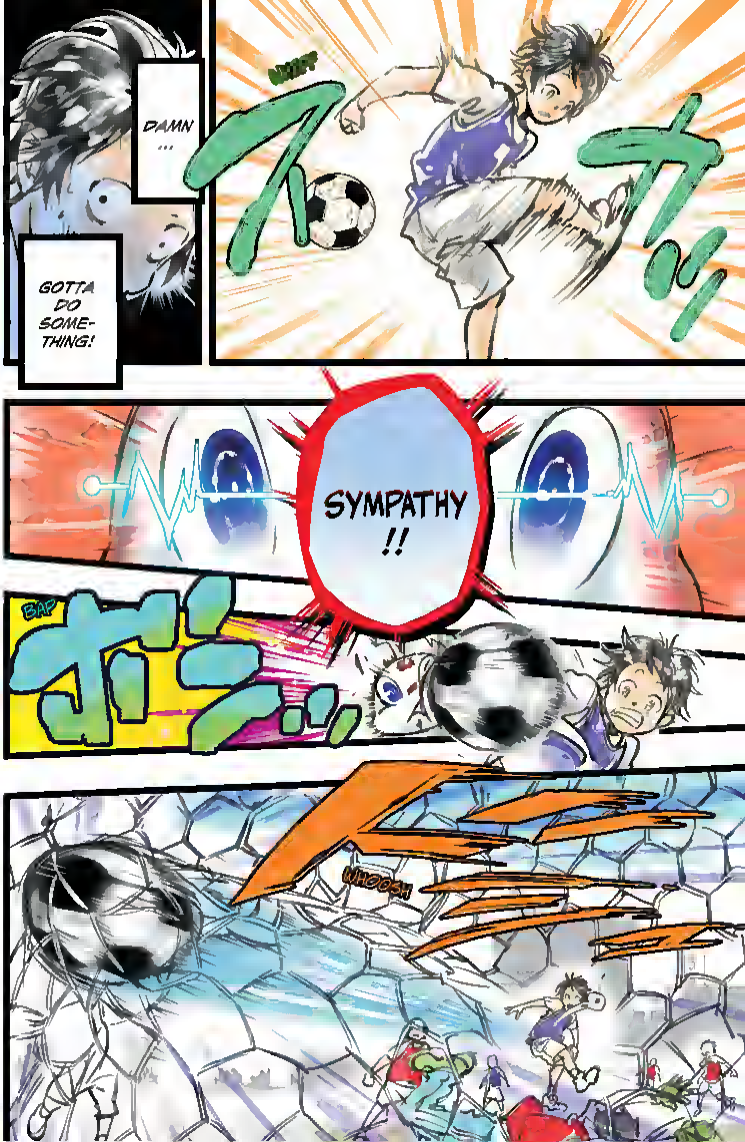
PTOOEY.
PTOOEY.
ACK!! SOME-THING WENT IN MY MOUTH !!
PLEASE, KOKO-NOE!!
DON'T MAKE A MESS OF THE ROOM!!

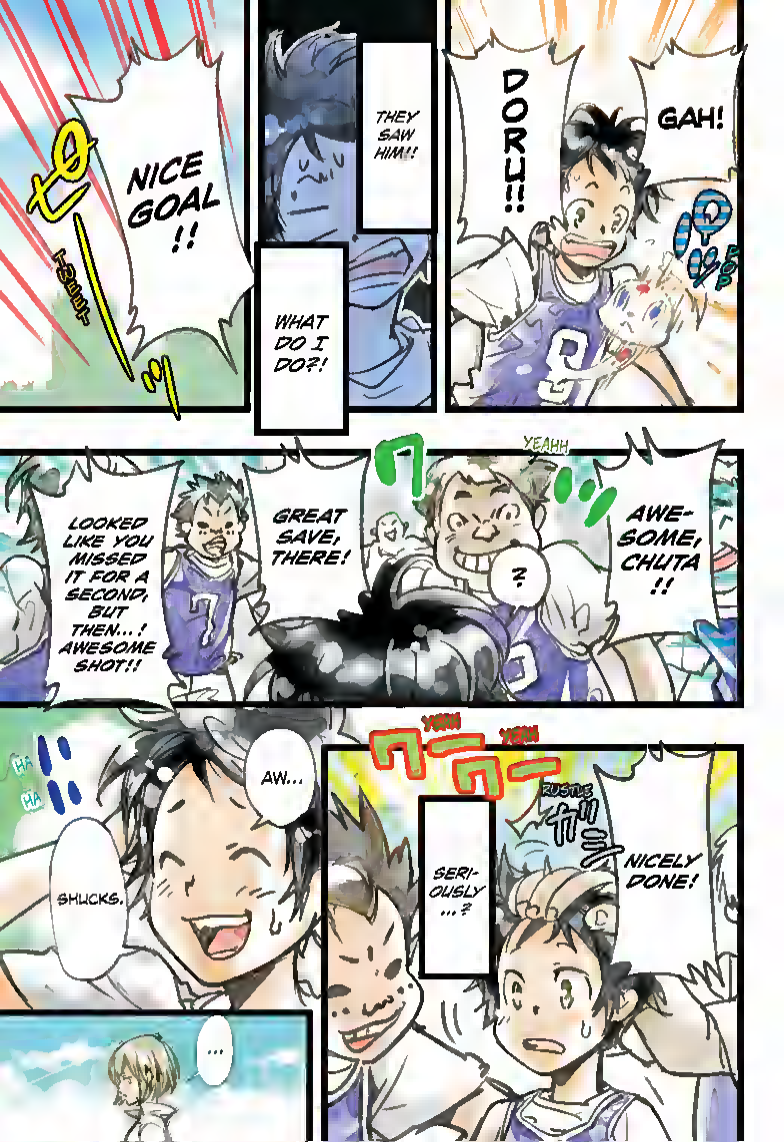



THIS IS WHY I DON'T WANT TO WORK WITH HIM.
PLEASE DIE WITHOUT LEAVING A TRACE. OR AT LEAST QUIT EI-DLIVE.
HMPH.
Y-YOU'D LIKE THAT, WOULDN'T YOU?

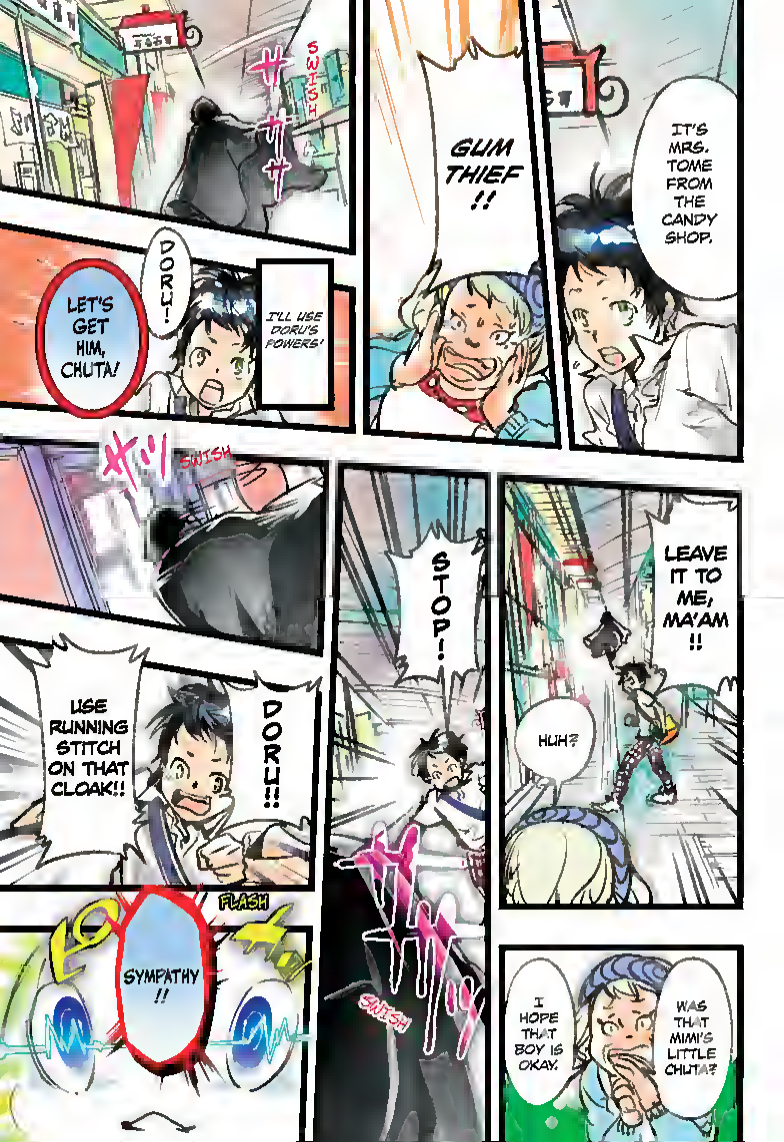
P-PASS IT HERE!

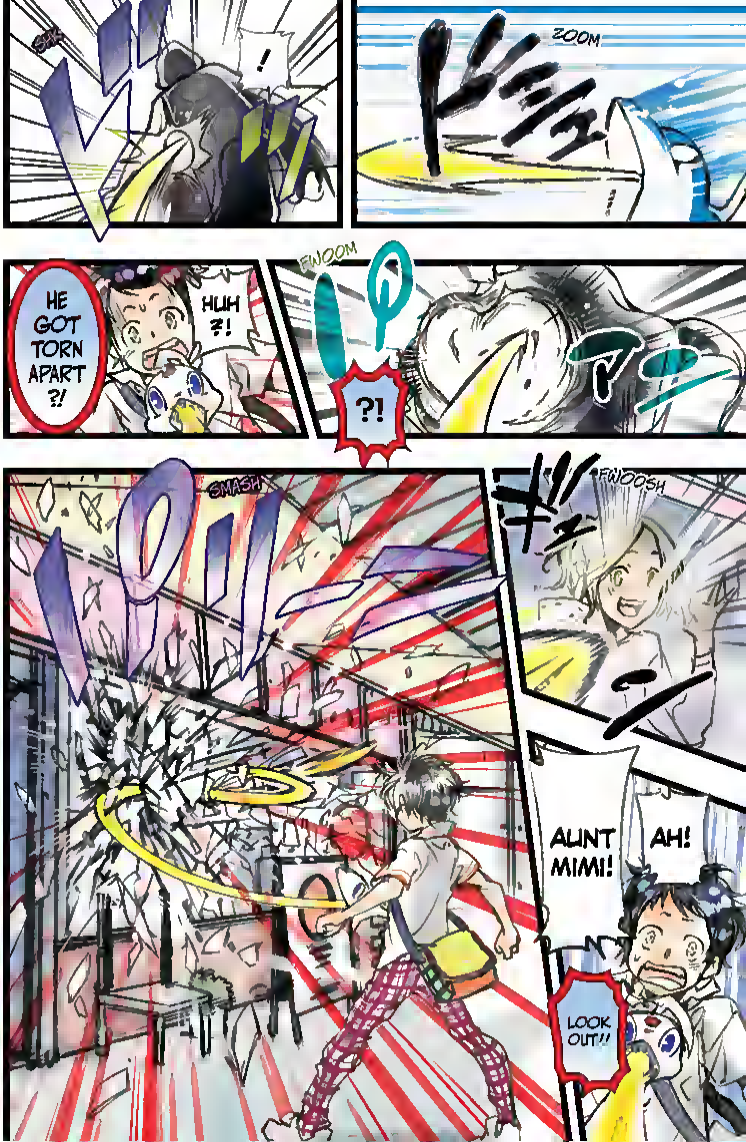
N-NOT REALLY...
HE'S NOT WRONG, BUT...
HUH?
SO ASSERTIVE LATELY, CHUTA.
FEELING CONFIDENT FROM ALL THE RECENT PRAISE.
IT'S TRUE. THANKS TO THIS "VOICE" I ONCE SAW AS A CURSE ...
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
...I'M GETTING A LOT OF PRAISE...
THAT WAS REALLY IMPRES-SIVE
AL-RIGHT!
!
HERE IT COMES, CHUTA!

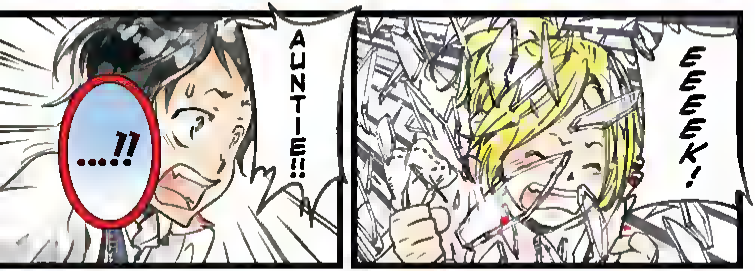

DAMN ...
GOTTA DO SOME-THING!
WOOF
SYMPATHY !!
BAP
WHOOSH

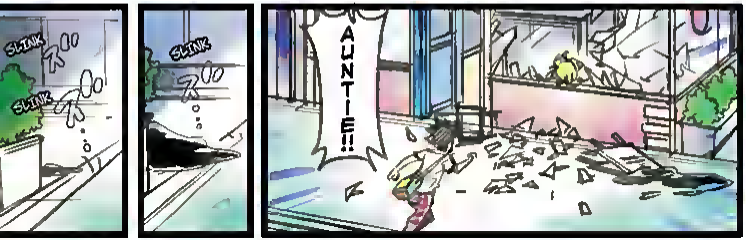

NICE GOAL !!
THEY SAW HIM!!
WHAT DO I DO?!
DORU!!
GAH!
LOOKED LIKE YOU MISSED IT FOR A SECOND, BUT THEN...! AWESOME SHOT!!
GREAT SAVE, THERE!
?
YEAHH
AWE-SOME, CHUTA !!
HA HA
SHUCKS.
AW...
...
SERI-OUSLY ...?
NICELY DONE!

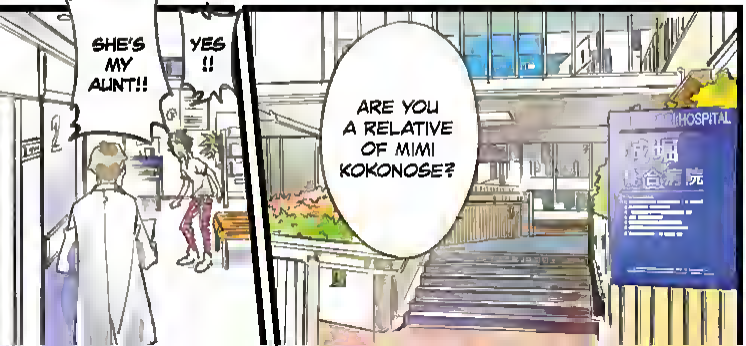
♪~
AFTER THAT AMAZING GOAL. ♪
YEP. SURE AM.
YEAH
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO MAKE FRIENDS!
EVERYONE AT SCHOOL'S TREATING YOU LIKE A FRIEND.
YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD, CHUTA.
♪
CATCH THAT THIEF !!
SHOPLIFTER!!
!

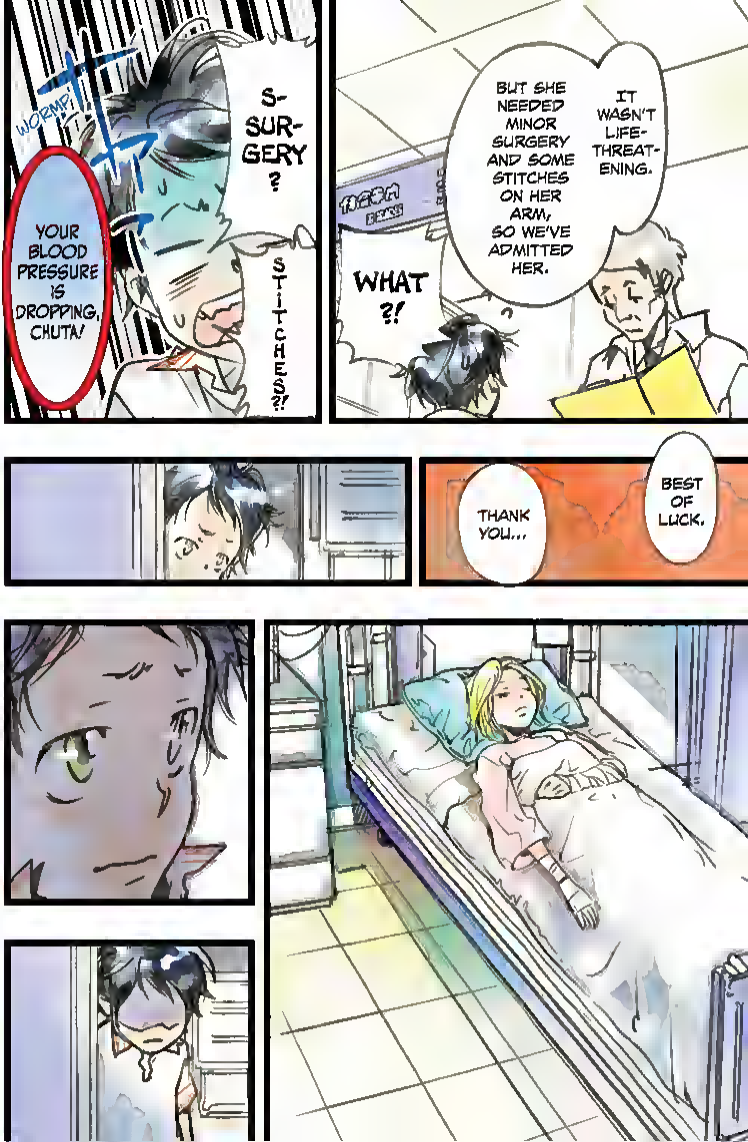

SWISH
GUM THIEF !!
IT'S MRS. TOME FROM THE CANDY SHOP.
DORU!
LET'S GET HIM, CHUTA!
I'LL USE DORU'S POWERS!
SWISH
STOP!
LEAVE IT TO ME, MA'AM !!
HUH?
DORU!!
USE RUNNING STITCH ON THAT CLOAK!!
FLASH
SYMPATHY !!
SWISH
I HOPE THAT BOY IS OKAY.
WAS THAT MIMI'S LITTLE CHUTA?

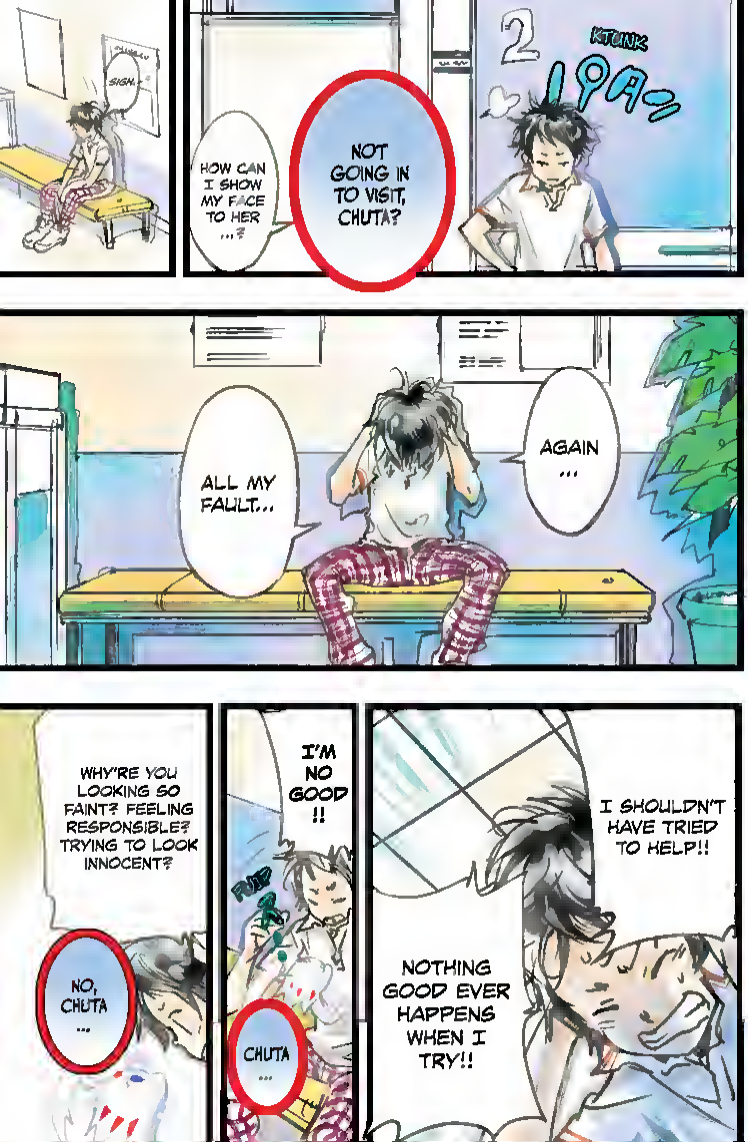

SWK
!
ZOOM
HE GOT TORN APART ?!
HUH ?!
FWOOM
?!
SMASH
FWOOSH
AUNT MIMI!
AH!
LOOK OUT!!

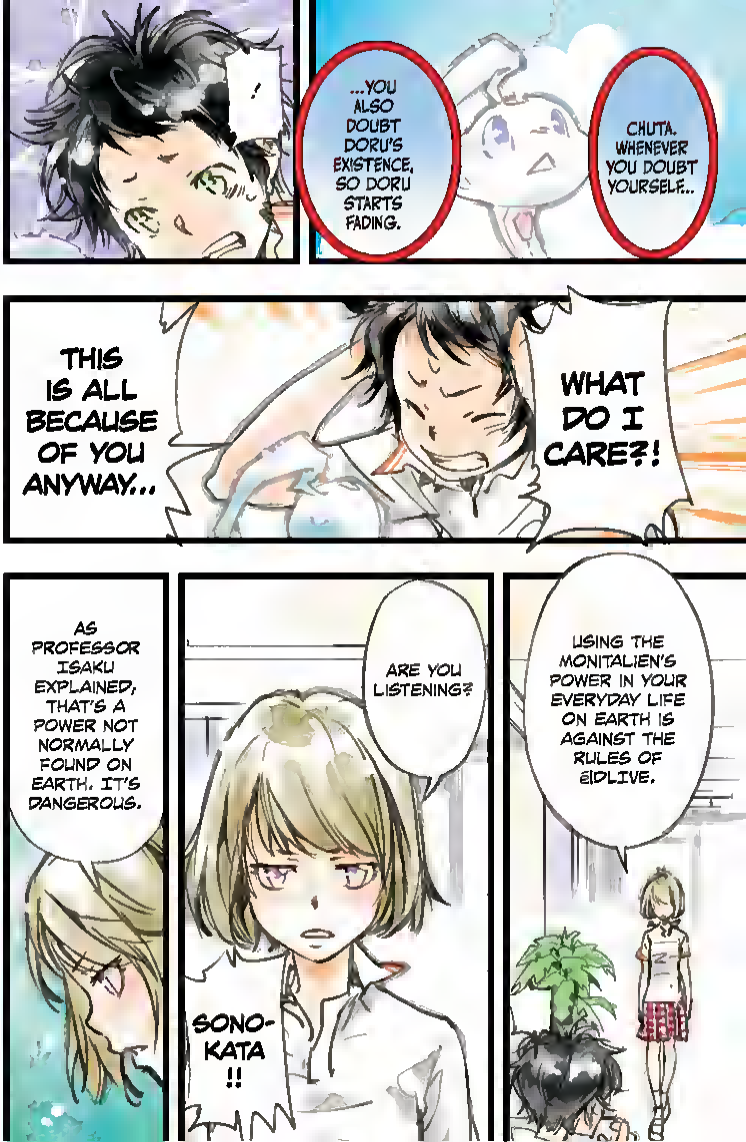

EEEEK!
AUNTIE!!
...!!

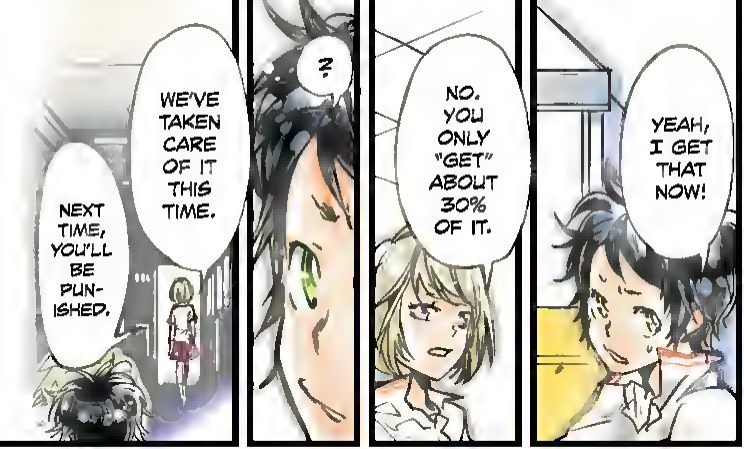

SLINK
SLINK
SLINK
AUNTIE!!

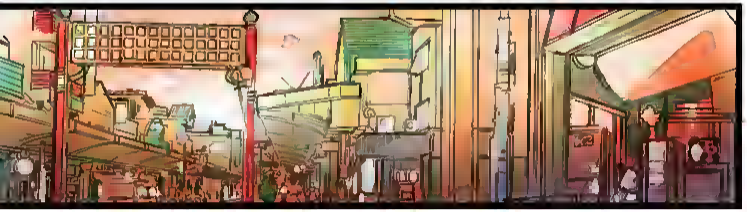

SHE'S MY AUNT!!
YES !!
ARE YOU A RELATIVE OF MIMI KOKONOSE?
HOSPITAL

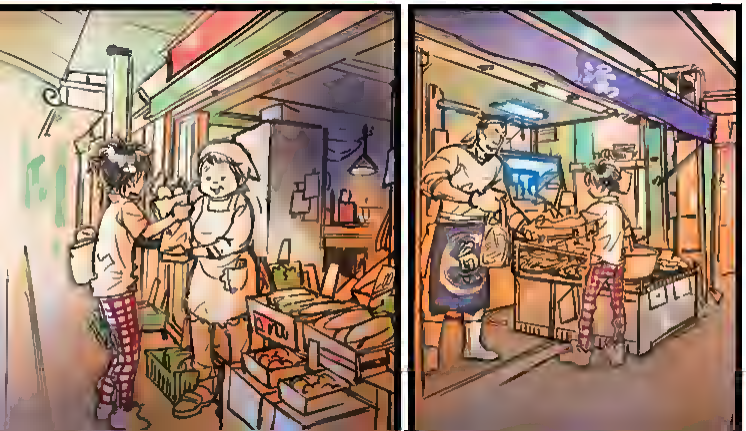

WOMP!
S-SURGERY?
STITCHES?!
YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IS DROPPING, CHUTA!
IT WASN'T LIFE-THREATENING.
BUT SHE NEEDED MINOR SURGERY AND SOME STITCHES ON HER ARM, SO WE'VE ADMITTED HER.
WHAT?!
THANK YOU...
BEST OF LUCK.


SIGH...
HOW CAN I SHOW MY FACE TO HER ...?
NOT GOING IN TO VISIT, CHUTA?
2
KTUNK
ALL MY FAULT...
AGAIN ...
WHY'RE YOU LOOKING SO FAINT? FEELING RESPONSIBLE? TRYING TO LOOK INNOCENT?
NO, CHUTA ...
I'M NO GOOD !!
PUFF
CHUTA ...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO HELP!!
NOTHING GOOD EVER HAPPENS WHEN I TRY!!


!
...YOU ALSO DOUBT DORU'S EXISTENCE, SO DORU STARTS FADING.
CHUTA. WHENEVER YOU DOUBT YOURSELF...
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF YOU ANYWAY..
WHAT DO I CARE?!
AS PROFESSOR ISAKU EXPLAINED, THAT'S A POWER NOT NORMALLY FOUND ON EARTH. IT'S DANGEROUS.
ARE YOU LISTENING?
SONO-KATA !!
USING THE MONITALIEN'S POWER IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE ON EARTH IS AGAINST THE RULES OF EIDLIVE.


YEAH, I GET THAT NOW!
NO. YOU ONLY "GET" ABOUT 30% OF IT.
?
WE'VE TAKEN CARE OF IT THIS TIME.
NEXT TIME, YOU'LL BE PUN-ISHED.

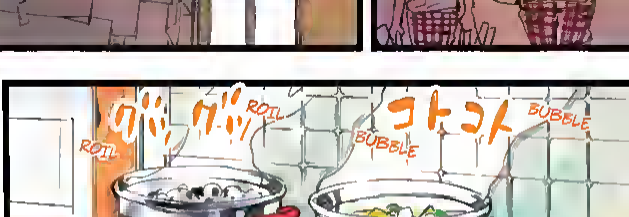




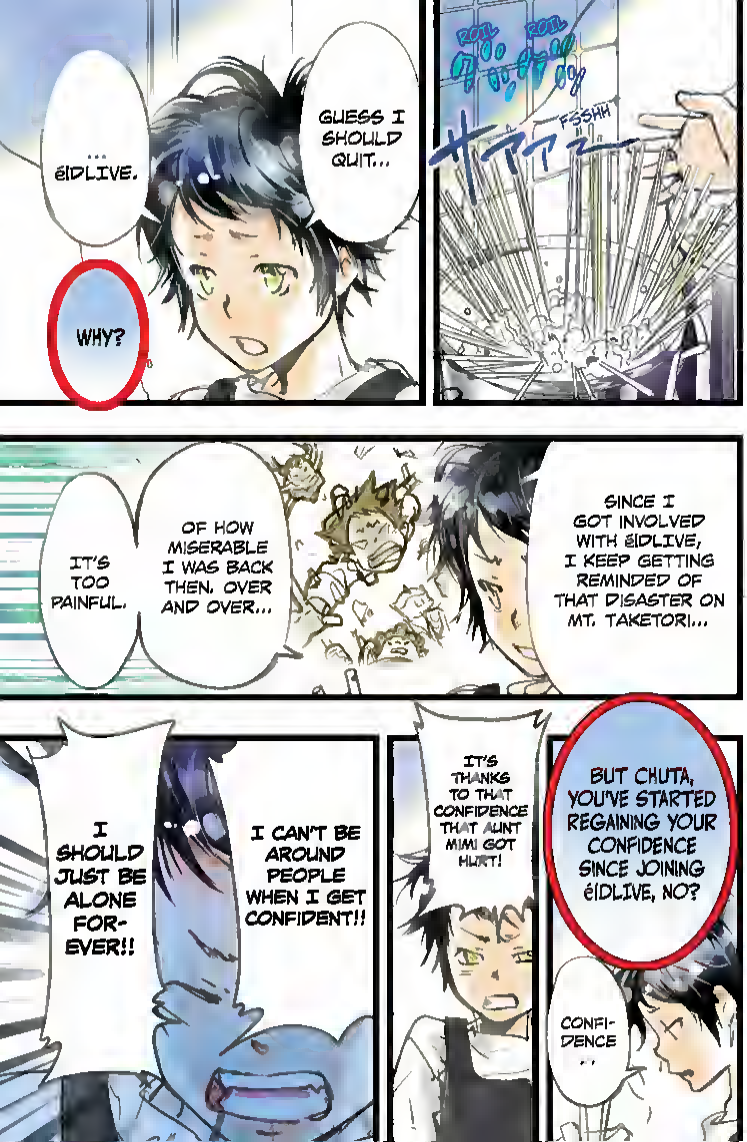
SORRY. NO.

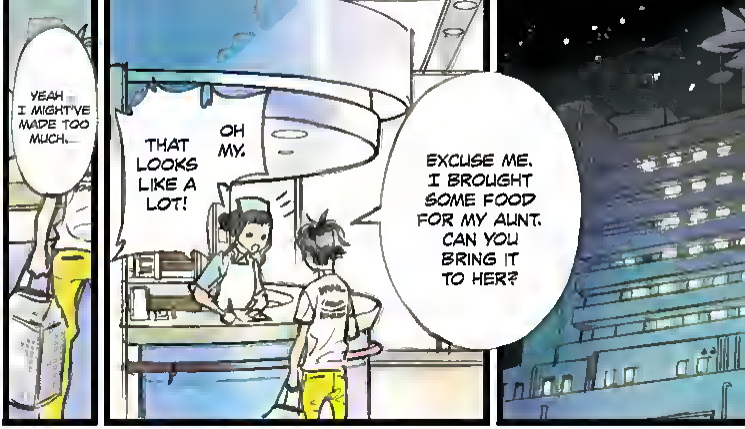
WE'RE PLAYING AN INDOOR GAME TONIGHT. WANNA COME?
CHUTA! YOUR SOCCER MOVES IN GYM CLASS WERE AWESOME!

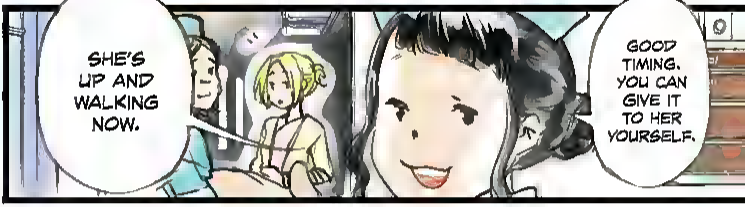
CHOP
トントントン

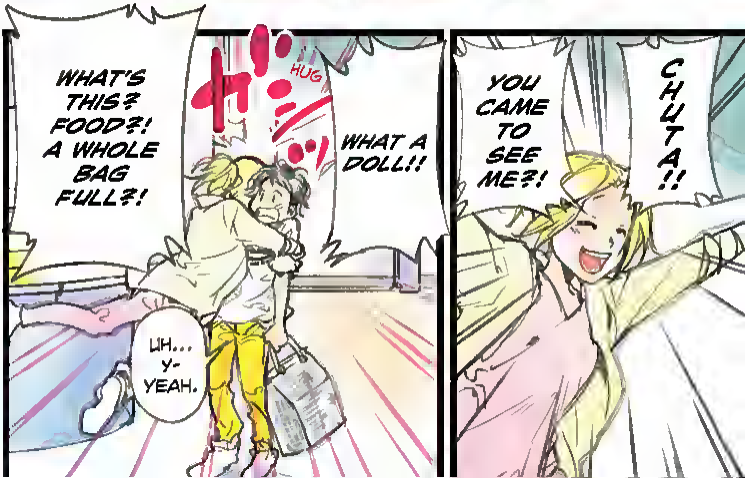

ROIL
ROIL
コトコト
BUBBLE
BUBBLE

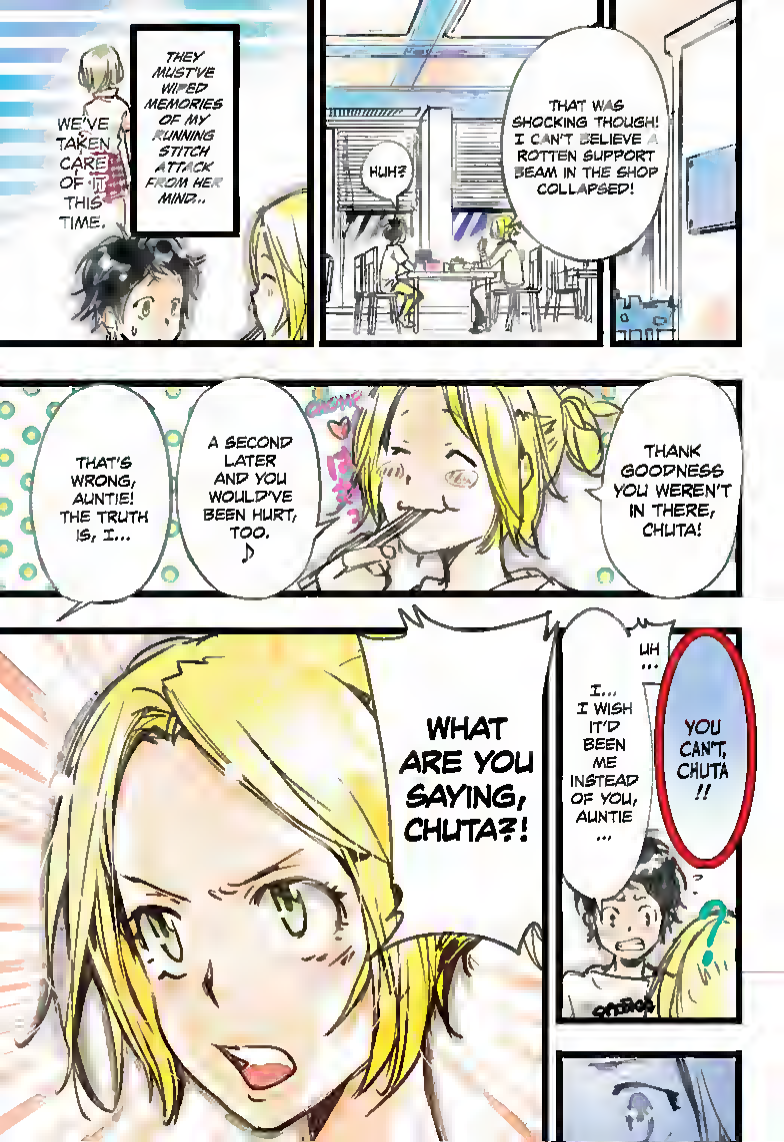
YOUR "DEPRESSION COOKING."
YOU ALWAYS DO THIS WHEN YOU'RE FEELING DOWN, CHUTA.

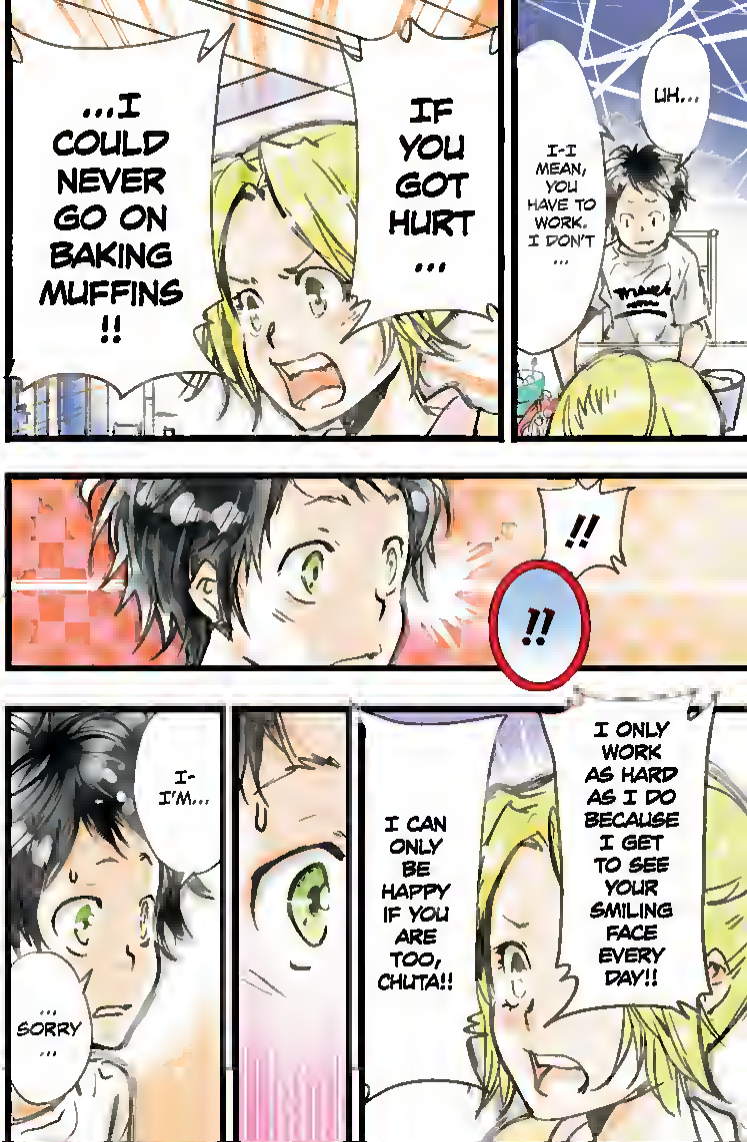

GUESS I SHOULD QUIT...
...
ēIDLIVE.
WHY?
ROLL ROLL
FSSHH
SINCE I GOT INVOLVED WITH ēIDLIVE, I KEEP GETTING REMINDED OF THAT DISASTER ON MT. TAKETORI...
OF HOW MISERABLE I WAS BACK THEN. OVER AND OVER...
IT'S TOO PAINFUL.
I CAN'T BE AROUND PEOPLE WHEN I GET CONFIDENT!!
I SHOULD JUST BE ALONE FOR-EVER!!
IT'S THANKS TO THAT CONFIDENCE THAT AUNT MIMI GOT HURT!
BUT CHUTA, YOU'VE STARTED REGAINING YOUR CONFIDENCE SINCE JOINING ēIDLIVE, NO?
CONFI-DENCE..

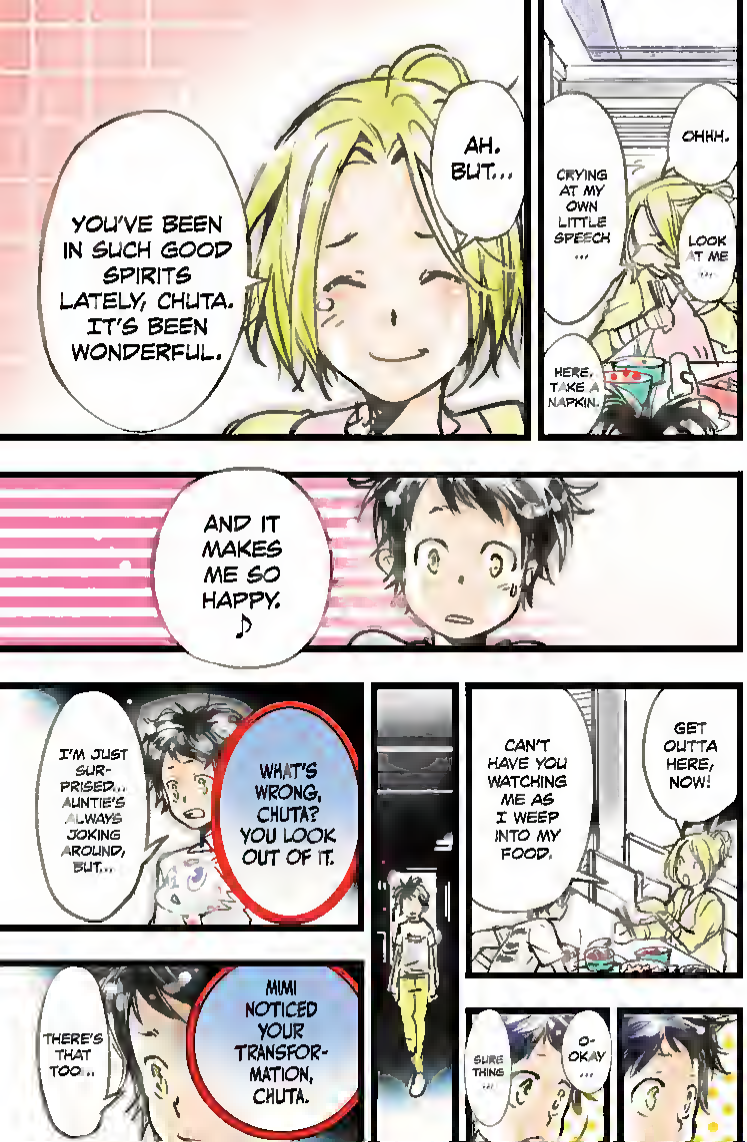

EXCUSE ME. I BROUGHT SOME FOOD FOR MY AUNT. CAN YOU BRING IT TO HER?
OH MY. THAT LOOKS LIKE A LOT!
YEAH... I MIGHT'VE MADE TOO MUCH...


GOOD TIMING. YOU CAN GIVE IT TO HER YOURSELF.
SHE'S UP AND WALKING NOW.

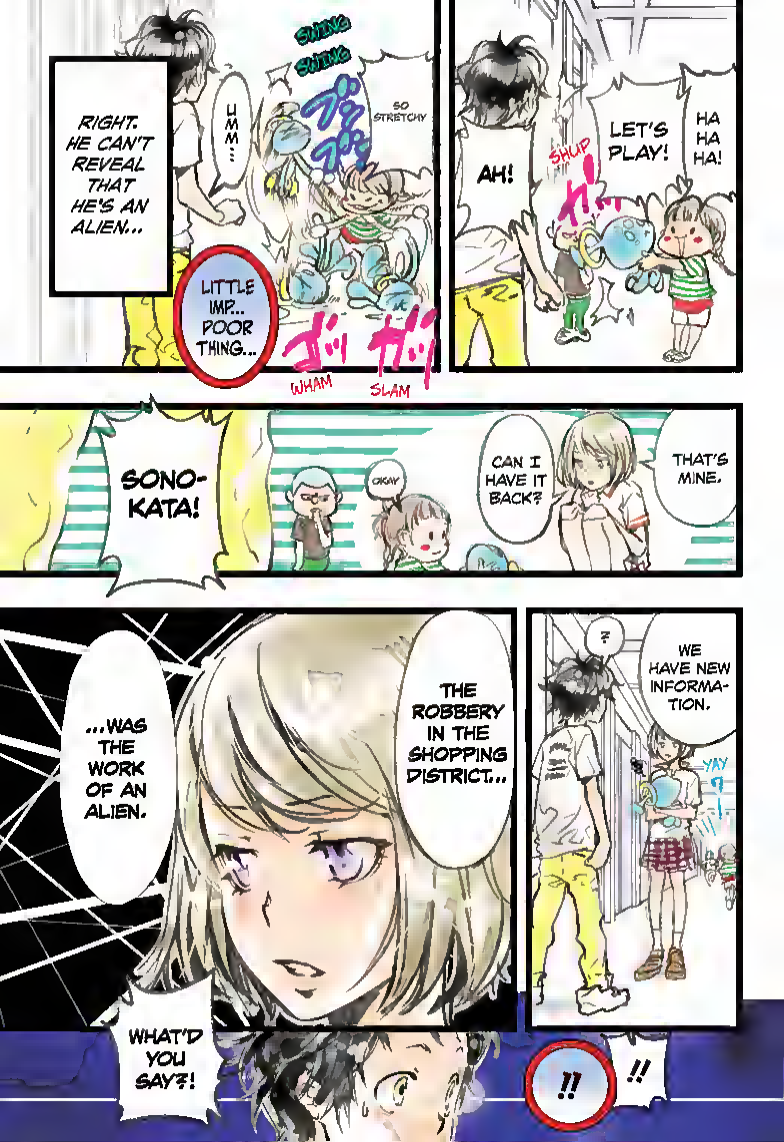

CHUTA!!
YOU CAME TO SEE ME?!
HUG
WHAT A DOLL!!
WHAT'S THIS? FOOD?! A WHOLE BAG FULL?!
UH... Y-YEAH.

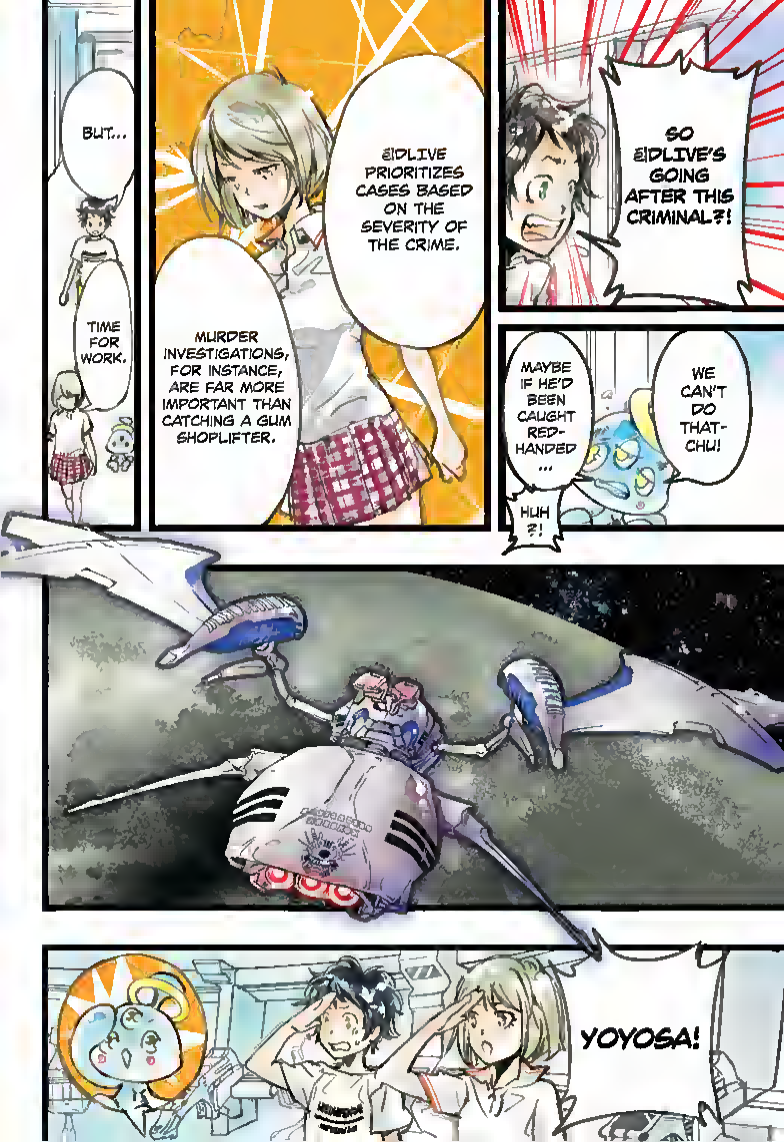

WE'VE TAKEN CARE OF IT THIS TIME.
THEY MUST'VE WIPED MEMORIES OF MY RUNNING STITCH ATTACK FROM HER MIND..
HUH?
THAT WAS SHOCKING THOUGH! I CAN'T BELIEVE A ROTTEN SUPPORT BEAM IN THE SHOP COLLAPSED!
THANK GOODNESS YOU WEREN'T IN THERE, CHUTA!
CHUU
A SECOND LATER AND YOU WOULD'VE BEEN HURT, TOO. ♪
THAT'S WRONG, AUNTIE! THE TRUTH IS, I...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, CHUTA?!
UH...
I... I WISH IT'D BEEN ME INSTEAD OF YOU, AUNTIE...
YOU CAN'T, CHUTA!!


...I COULD NEVER GO ON BAKING MUFFINS !!
IF YOU GOT HURT ...
I-I MEAN, YOU HAVE TO WORK. I DON'T ...
UH...
!!
!!
I- I'M...
... SORRY ...
I CAN ONLY BE HAPPY IF YOU ARE TOO, CHUTA!!
I ONLY WORK AS HARD AS I DO BECAUSE I GET TO SEE YOUR SMILING FACE EVERY DAY!!

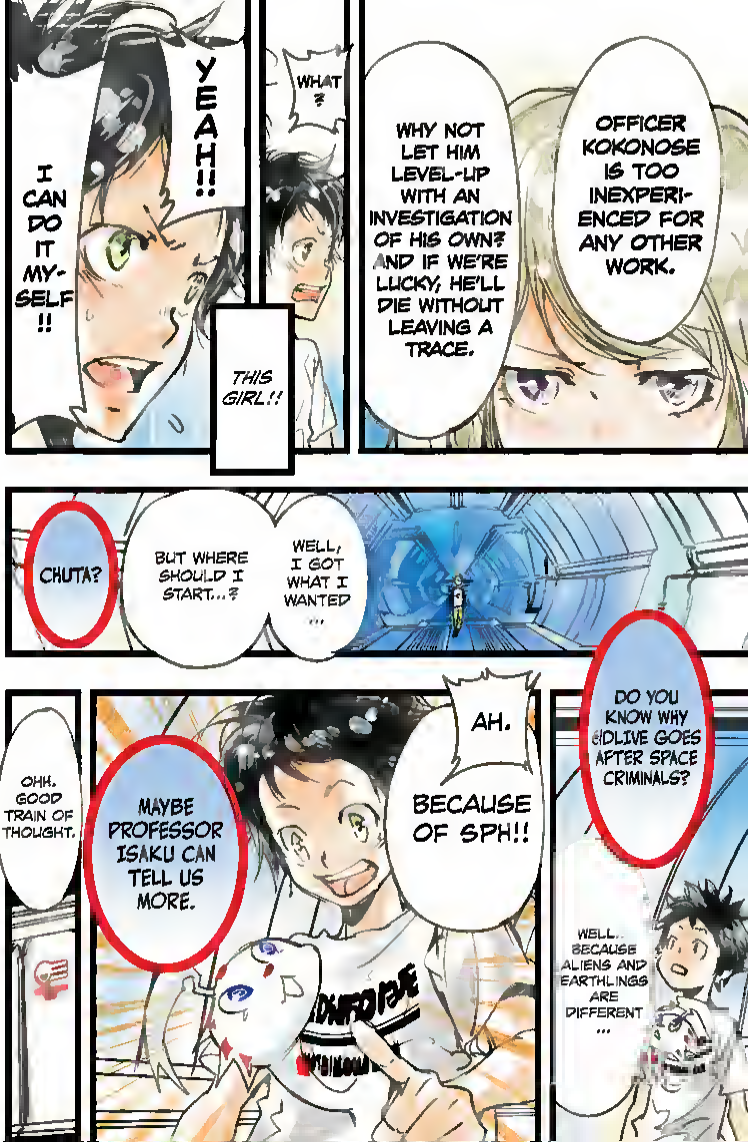

YOU'VE BEEN IN SUCH GOOD SPIRITS LATELY, CHUTA. IT'S BEEN WONDERFUL.
AH. BUT...
CRYING AT MY OWN LITTLE SPEECH ...
OHHH.
LOOK AT ME ...
HERE. TAKE A NAPKIN.
AND IT MAKES ME SO HAPPY. ♪
I'M JUST SURPRISED... AUNTIE'S ALWAYS JOKING AROUND, BUT...
WHAT'S WRONG, CHUTA? YOU LOOK OUT OF IT.
CAN'T HAVE YOU WATCHING ME AS I WEEP INTO MY FOOD.
GET OUTTA HERE, NOW!
THERE'S THAT TOO..
MIMI NOTICED YOUR TRANSFORMATION, CHUTA.
SURE THING ...
O-OKAY ...

!
I HAVE TO TRY HARDER, FOR HER.
I... DIDN'T KNOW AUNTIE CARED SO MUCH ABOUT ME...
DORU'S GETTING HIS COLOR BACK A LITTLE...
I HAVE TO DO WHAT I CAN TO PROTECT AUNTIE AND HER MUFFINS...
A BAL-LOON !!
WUZZAT OVER THERE?
YOYOSA !!
OFFICER KOKO NOSE!
CAN I DO THIS IN PUBLIC ?
YO-YOYO-SA!
!
FOUND YOU-CHU! TIME FOR WORK-CHU!
THE LITTLE IMP!


RIGHT. HE CAN'T REVEAL THAT HE'S AN ALIEN...
UMM...
SWING SWING
SO STRETCHY
LITTLE IMP... POOR THING...
WHAM
SLAM
AH!
SHUP
LET'S PLAY!
HA HA HA!
SONO-KATA!
OKAY
CAN I HAVE IT BACK?
THAT'S MINE.
THE ROBBERY IN THE SHOPPING DISTRICT...
...WAS THE WORK OF AN ALIEN.
WHAT'D YOU SAY?!
?
WE HAVE NEW INFORMA-TION.
YAY
!!
!!

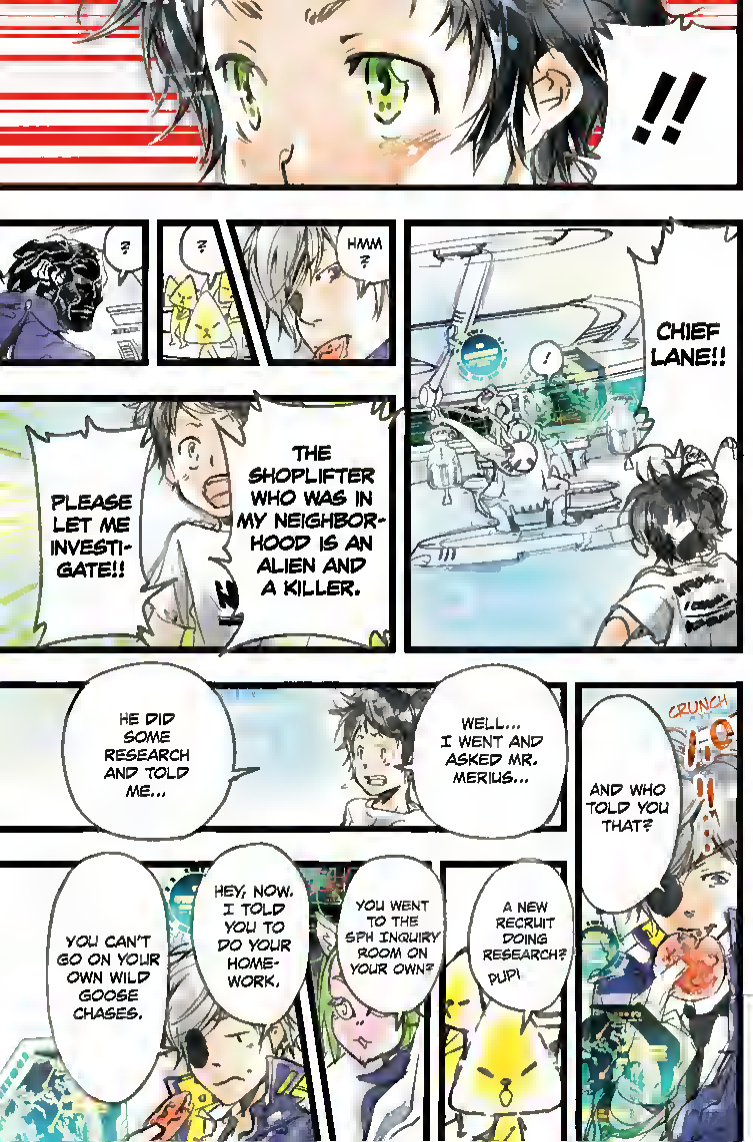

BUT...
TIME FOR WORK.
E!DLIVE PRIORITIZES CASES BASED ON THE SEVERITY OF THE CRIME.
MURDER INVESTIGATIONS, FOR INSTANCE, ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN CATCHING A GUM SHOPLIFTER.
SO E!DLIVE'S GOING AFTER THIS CRIMINAL?!
WE CAN'T DO THAT-CHU!
MAYBE IF HE'D BEEN CAUGHT RED-HANDED...
HUH?!
YOYOSA!

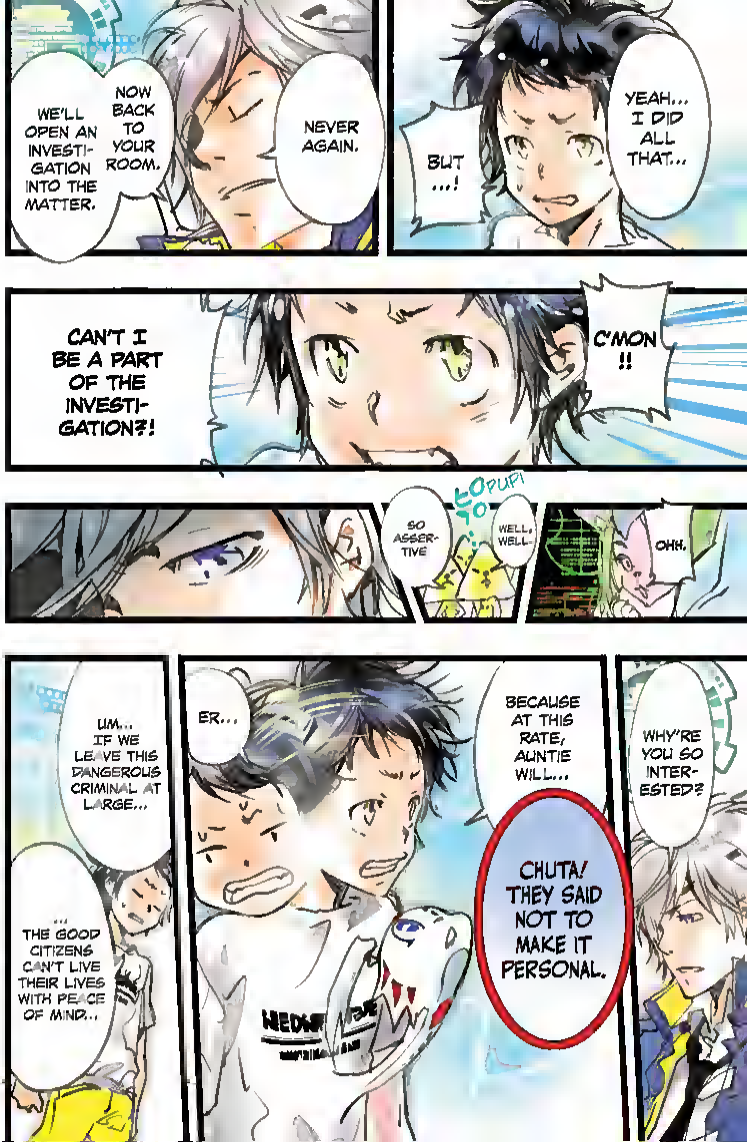
AT EASE.
UNTIL CAPTAIN MADIGAN RETURNS, INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION 2 IS UNDER MY COMMAND.
I'M AFRAID THERE'S NO WORK AT THE MOMENT FOR OFFICERS OF YOUR LEVEL.
JUST GO AND DO YOUR SCHOOL-WORK.
HUH?
SO YOU'VE GOT THE NIGHT OFF, CHUTA.
HEY, SONO-KATA.
HOW ABOUT WE GO GET THAT SHOPLIFTER? WE'VE GOT THE TIME, ANYWAY.
WHY THE SUDDEN EAGER-NESS?
WHY? WELL...
THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW...
...AUNTIE CAN'T OPEN HER SHOP WITH PEACE OF MIND!
NO GOOD-CHU!!
INVESTIGA-TIONS MUST NOT BE MOTIVATED BY PERSONAL EMOTIONS.
OH, I SEE ...
HUH?
CAN'T WE MAKE AN EXCEPTION THIS TIME?


OFFICER KOKONOSE IS TOO INEXPERIENCED FOR ANY OTHER WORK.
WHY NOT LET HIM LEVEL-UP WITH AN INVESTIGATION OF HIS OWN? AND IF WE'RE LUCKY, HE'LL DIE WITHOUT LEAVING A TRACE.
WHAT?
THIS GIRL!!
YEAH!!
I CAN DO IT MYSELF!!
WELL, I GOT WHAT I WANTED...
BUT WHERE SHOULD I START..?
CHUTA?
DO YOU KNOW WHY IDLIVE GOES AFTER SPACE CRIMINALS?
WELL.. BECAUSE ALIENS AND EARTHLINGS ARE DIFFERENT...
AH. BECAUSE OF SPH!!
MAYBE PROFESSOR ISAKU CAN TELL US MORE.
OHH. GOOD TRAIN OF THOUGHT.

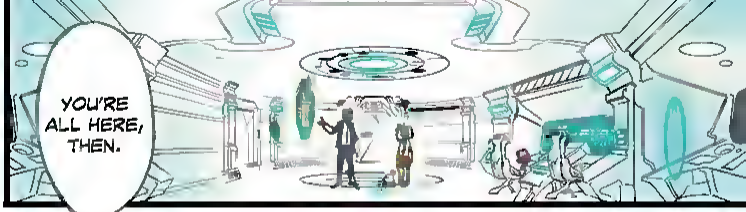
SCREEE
WHOA ...
O-OKAY !!
HEAD OVER TO THE "SPH INQUIRY ROOM."
BUT WE SHOULD HAVE A RECORD OF THE CRIMINAL'S SPH IF HE'S ON EARTH.
I'M A LITTLE TIED UP WITH THIS DENTAL WORK AT THE MOMENT.
THIS UNSEEMLY FORM OF MINE!!
MUUUN !!
THE MOON MAN HAS ARMS!!
SUGE
I'VE BEEN SEEN !!!
OPSSH!
HERE
ACK
A PRIVATE INVESTIGATION?!
YOU CHEEKY BOY!!
UH , I WANNA CATCH A SHOPLIFTER DOWN ON EARTH. I WAS HOPING YOU'D HAVE A RECORD OF ITS SPH HERE , MAYBE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ?!
UM ...
THAT'S A LOT OF PEOPLE...
DAMN YOU!!
YOU MAKE THE 50,000TH PERSON TO SEE MY ARMS!!

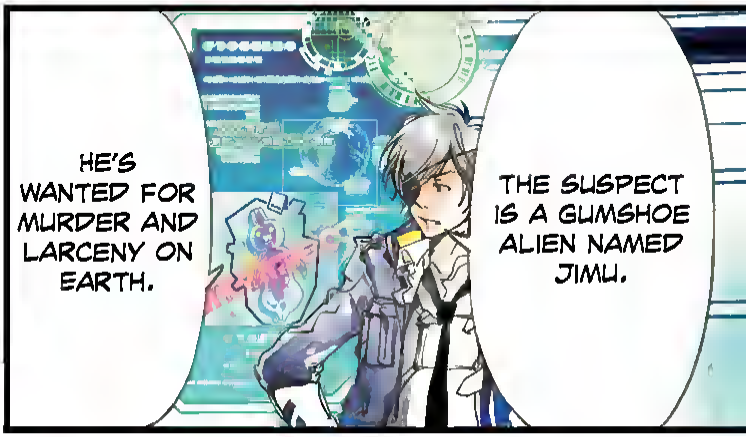
I MIGHT HELP, IF YOU KEEP MY ARMS A SECRET..
MUUUN.
...YOU WON'T HELP ME?
UM... DOES THAT MEAN...
OOH.
NO TWO ARE ALIKE.
TAP TAP TAP
SPH SIGNATURES ARE UNIQUE, LIKE AN EARTHLING'S FINGERPRINTS.
MUUN.
GOT IT. THIS GUY..
NOW JUST CROSS-REFERENCE WITH THE EXISTING DATABASE...
I WONDER HOW HE TYPES NORMALLY?
SO IF I JUST LOOK UP ALL SPH READINGS NEAR YOUR HOUSE AT THE TIME OF THE SHOPLIFTING...
LOOK AT HIM GO! SO FAST!
WHAT'S MORE, IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S KILLED AGAIN!!
THIS IS A VIOLENT CRIMINAL WANTED FOR MULTIPLE MURDERS!!
WHY? WHAT IS IT?
?
THIS GUY..
HOLD ON. ARE YOU SURE THIS WAS A MERE SHOP-LIFTING ...?
!!!

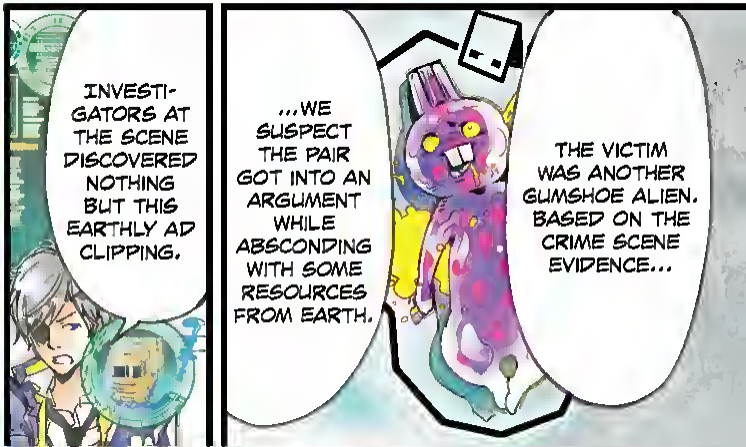

!!
?
?
HMM ?
CHIEF LANE!!
THE SHOPLIFTER WHO WAS IN MY NEIGHBOR-HOOD IS AN ALIEN AND A KILLER.
PLEASE LET ME INVESTI-GATE!!
HE DID SOME RESEARCH AND TOLD ME...
WELL... I WENT AND ASKED MR. MERIUS...
CRUNCH
AND WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
A NEW RECRUIT DOING RESEARCH?
PUP!
YOU WENT TO THE SPH INQUIRY ROOM ON YOUR OWN?
HEY, NOW. I TOLD YOU TO DO YOUR HOME-WORK.
YOU CAN'T GO ON YOUR OWN WILD GOOSE CHASES.

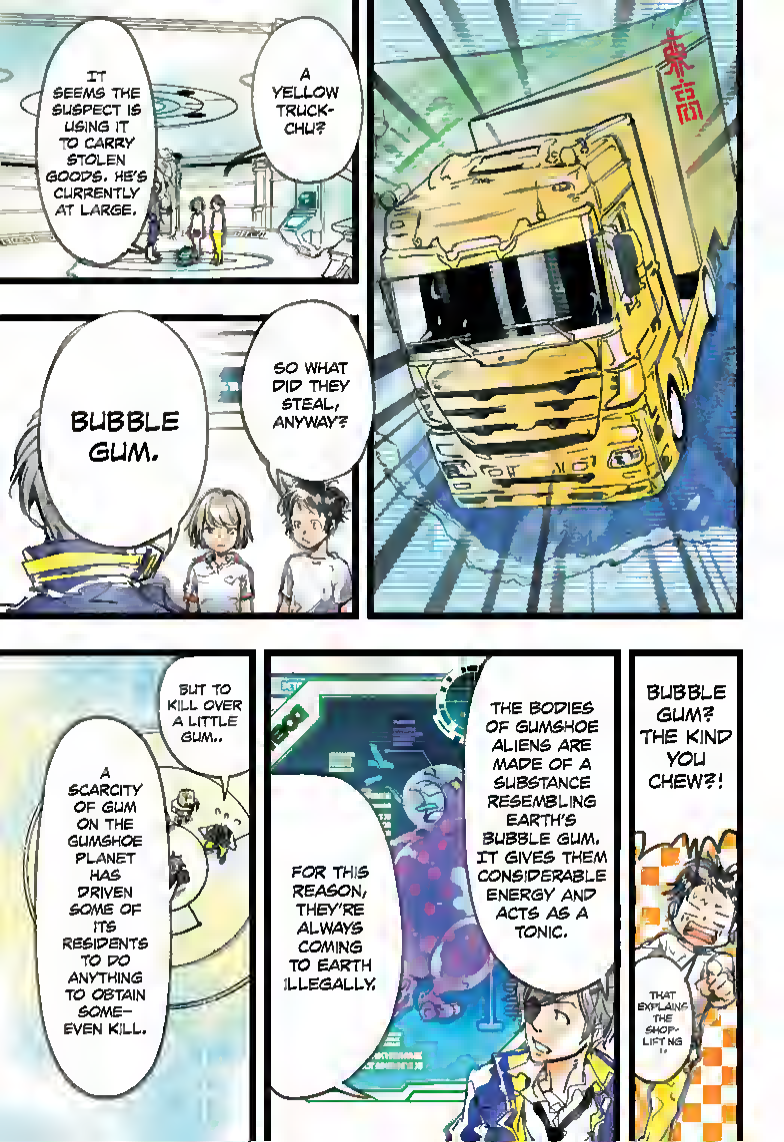

WE'LL OPEN AN INVESTI-GATION INTO THE MATTER.
NOW BACK TO YOUR ROOM.
NEVER AGAIN.
BUT ...!
YEAH... I DID ALL THAT...
CAN'T I BE A PART OF THE INVESTI-GATION?!
C'MON !!
SO ASSER-TIVE
WELL, WELL.
POUT
OHH.
UM... IF WE LEAVE THIS DANGEROUS CRIMINAL AT LARGE...
... THE GOOD CITIZENS CAN'T LIVE THEIR LIVES WITH PEACE OF MIND...
ER...
BECAUSE AT THIS RATE, AUNTIE WILL...
CHUTA! THEY SAID NOT TO MAKE IT PERSONAL.
WHY'RE YOU SO INTER-ESTED?

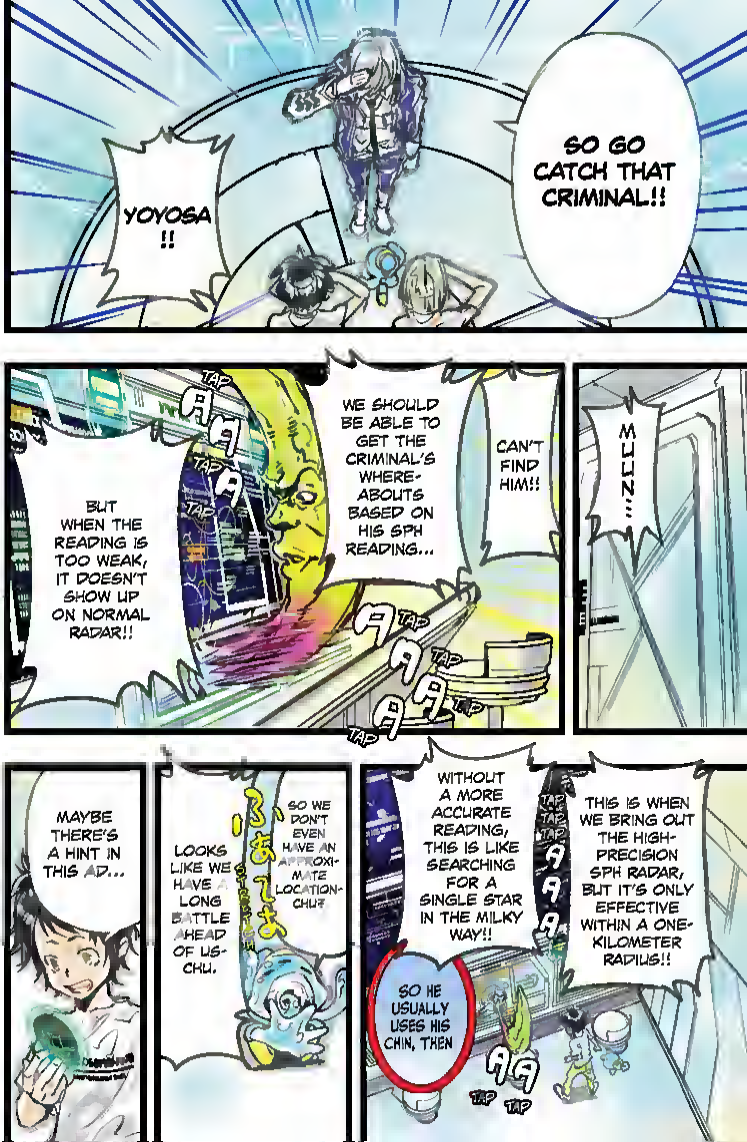
!
"CURRY"?
ALLOWING INNOCENT BYSTANDERS TO GET INVOLVED...
...IS AN EVEN GREATER TRAGEDY THAN OVER-COOKING CURRY RICE!!
BWA HA HA.
FINE, THEN. GO CATCH THE GUY!
HUH?!
YOU'RE LET-TING ME?!
PREPARE YOUR MATERIALS AND WARRANT AND THEN GO GET MISUZU AND CHIPS.
OKAY!
YOU DID IT, CHUTA!
IS THIS REALLY OKAY, CHIEF?
THIS CRIMINAL'S ONE YOU FLAGGED YOURSELF...
THE CHIEF'S ACTING ON A WHIM, AGAIN.

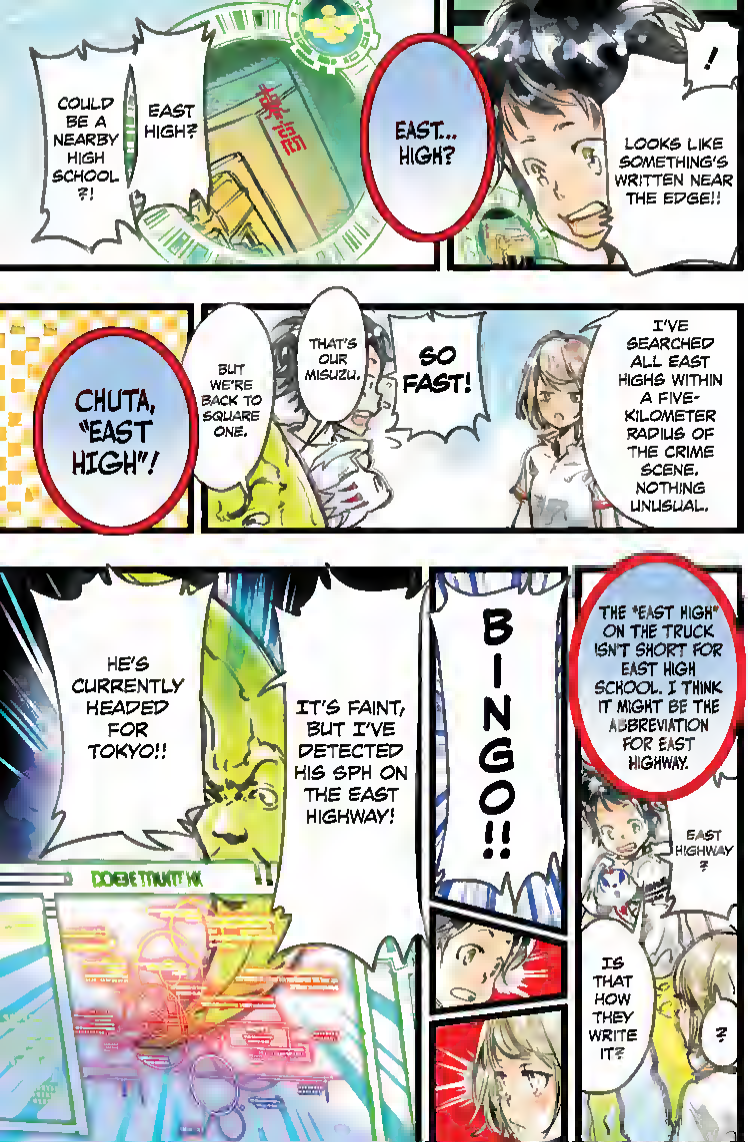

YOU'RE ALL HERE, THEN.

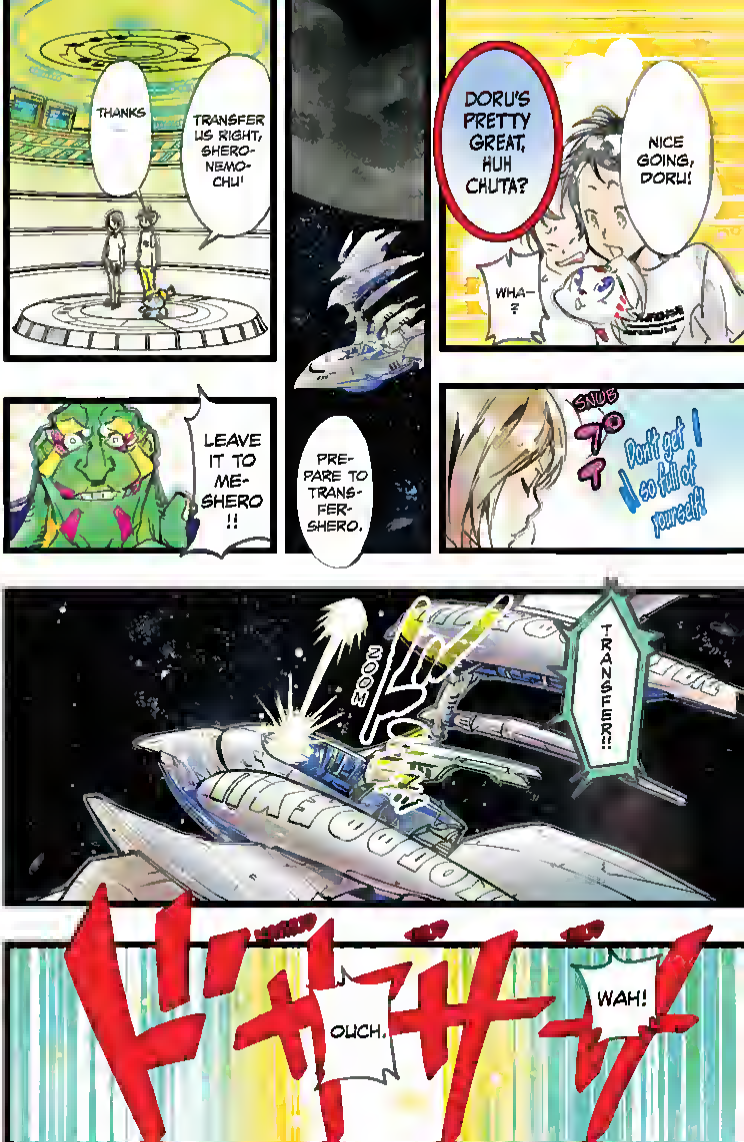

THE SUSPECT IS A GUMSHOE ALIEN NAMED JIMU.
HE'S WANTED FOR MURDER AND LARCENY ON EARTH.

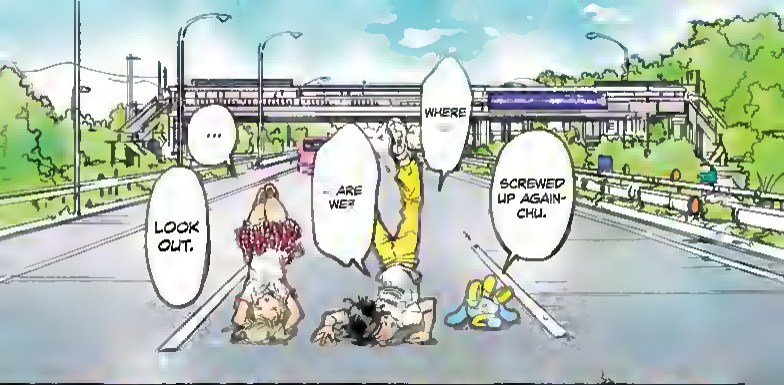

THE VICTIM WAS ANOTHER GUMSHOE ALIEN. BASED ON THE CRIME SCENE EVIDENCE...
...WE SUSPECT THE PAIR GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT WHILE ABSCONDING WITH SOME RESOURCES FROM EARTH.
INVESTI-GATORS AT THE SCENE DISCOVERED NOTHING BUT THIS EARTHLY AD CLIPPING.

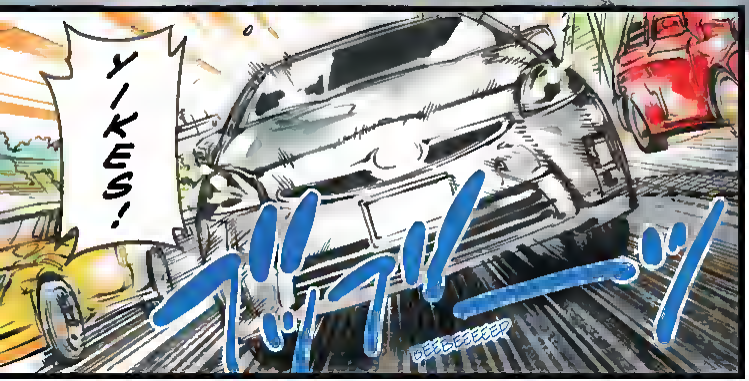

IT SEEMS THE SUSPECT IS USING IT TO CARRY STOLEN GOODS. HE'S CURRENTLY AT LARGE.
A YELLOW TRUCK-CHU?
SO WHAT DID THEY STEAL, ANYWAY?
BUBBLE GUM.
BUBBLE GUM? THE KIND YOU CHEW?!
THE BODIES OF GUMSHOE ALIENS ARE MADE OF A SUBSTANCE RESEMBLING EARTH'S BUBBLE GUM. IT GIVES THEM CONSIDERABLE ENERGY AND ACTS AS A TONIC.
FOR THIS REASON, THEY'RE ALWAYS COMING TO EARTH ILLEGALLY.
THAT EXPLAINS THE SHOP-LIFTING!
BUT TO KILL OVER A LITTLE GUM..
A SCARCITY OF GUM ON THE GUMSHOE PLANET HAS DRIVEN SOME OF ITS RESIDENTS TO DO ANYTHING TO OBTAIN SOME— EVEN KILL.

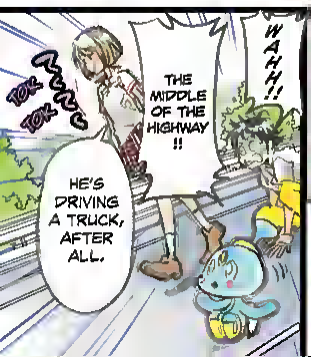

YOYOSA !!
SO GO CATCH THAT CRIMINAL!!
BUT WHEN THE READING IS TOO WEAK, IT DOESN'T SHOW UP ON NORMAL RADAR!!
TAP
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THE CRIMINAL'S WHEREABOUTS BASED ON HIS SPH READING...
CAN'T FIND HIM!!
MUUN...
MAYBE THERE'S A HINT IN THIS AD...
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A LONG BATTLE AHEAD OF US-CHU.
ふぁ～よ
SO WE DON'T EVEN HAVE AN APPROXIMATE LOCATION-CHU?
WITHOUT A MORE ACCURATE READING, THIS IS LIKE SEARCHING FOR A SINGLE STAR IN THE MILKY WAY!!
SO HE USUALLY USES HIS CHIN, THEN
THIS IS WHEN WE BRING OUT THE HIGH-PRECISION SPH RADAR, BUT IT'S ONLY EFFECTIVE WITHIN A ONE-KILOMETER RADIUS!!

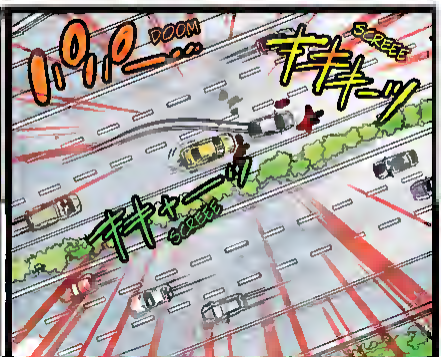

COULD BE A NEARBY HIGH SCHOOL?!
EAST HIGH?
EAST... HIGH?
!
LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING'S WRITTEN NEAR THE EDGE!!
CHUTA, "EAST HIGH"!
BUT WE'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE.
THAT'S OUR MISUZU.
SO FAST!
I'VE SEARCHED ALL EAST HIGHS WITHIN A FIVE-KILOMETER RADIUS OF THE CRIME SCENE. NOTHING UNUSUAL.
HE'S CURRENTLY HEADED FOR TOKYO!!
IT'S FAINT, BUT I'VE DETECTED HIS SPH ON THE EAST HIGHWAY!
BINGO!!
THE "EAST HIGH" ON THE TRUCK ISN'T SHORT FOR EAST HIGH SCHOOL. I THINK IT MIGHT BE THE ABBREVIATION FOR EAST HIGHWAY.
EAST HIGHWAY?
IS THAT HOW THEY WRITE IT?
?

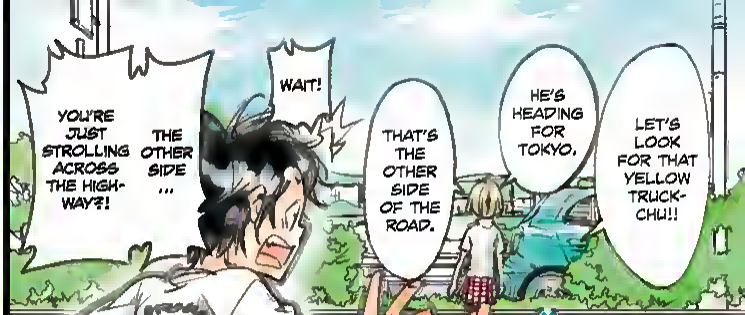

THANKS
TRANSFER US RIGHT, SHERO-NEMO-CHU!
PREPARE TO TRANSFER-SHERO.
LEAVE IT TO ME-SHERO!!
DORU'S PRETTY GREAT, HUH CHUTA?
WHA—?
NICE GOING, DORU!
SNUG
Don't get so full of yourself!
ZOOM
TRANSFER!!
OUCH.
WAH!

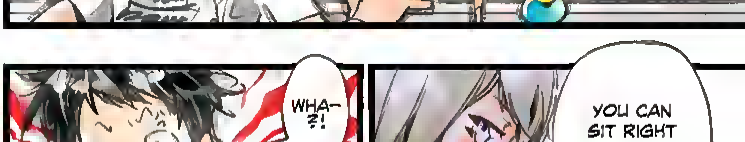

...
LOOK OUT.
ARE WE?
WHERE
SCREWED UP AGAIN-CHU.

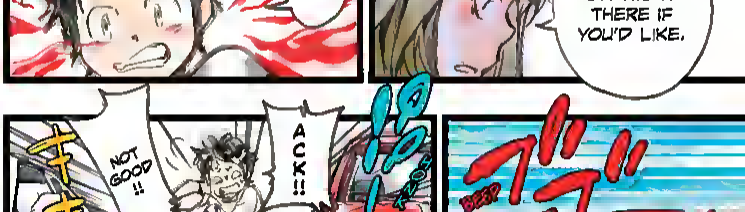

YIKES!
BEEEEEEEP

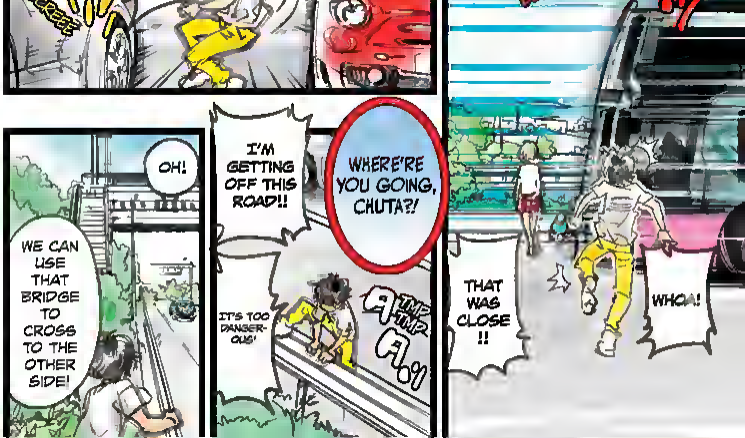

WAHH!!
THE MIDDLE OF THE HIGHWAY !!
TOK TOK
HE'S DRIVING A TRUCK, AFTER ALL.

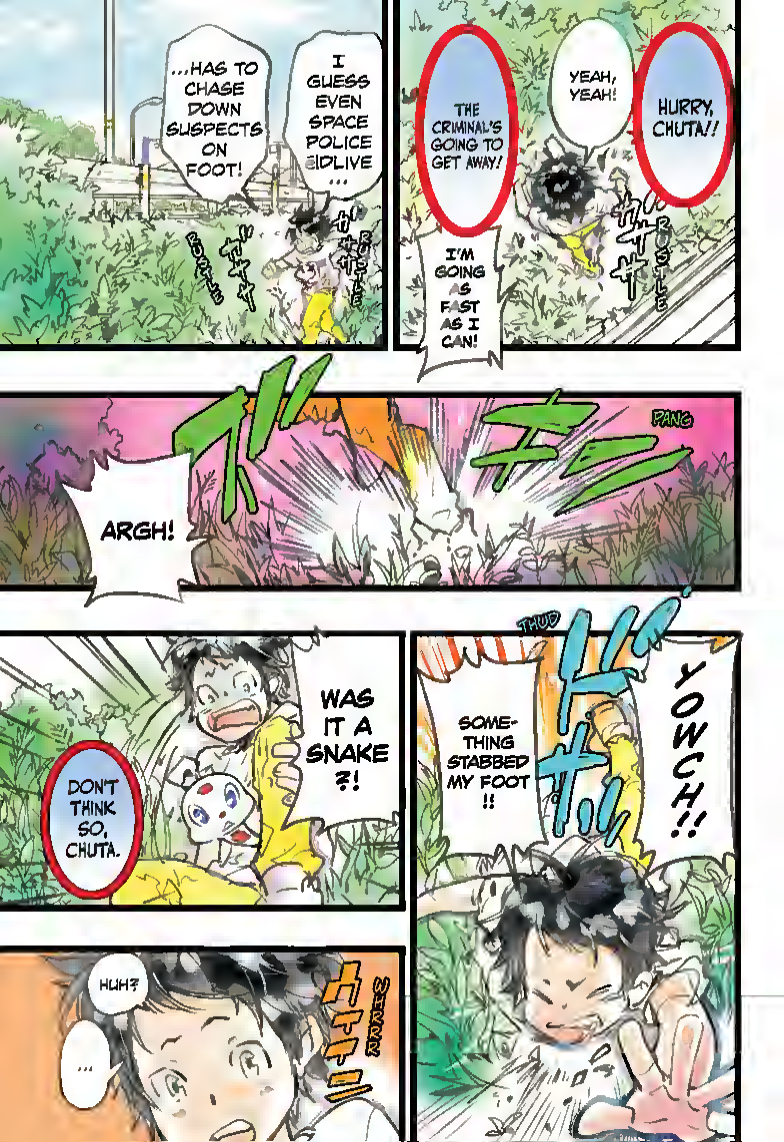

DOOM
SCREEE
SCREEE

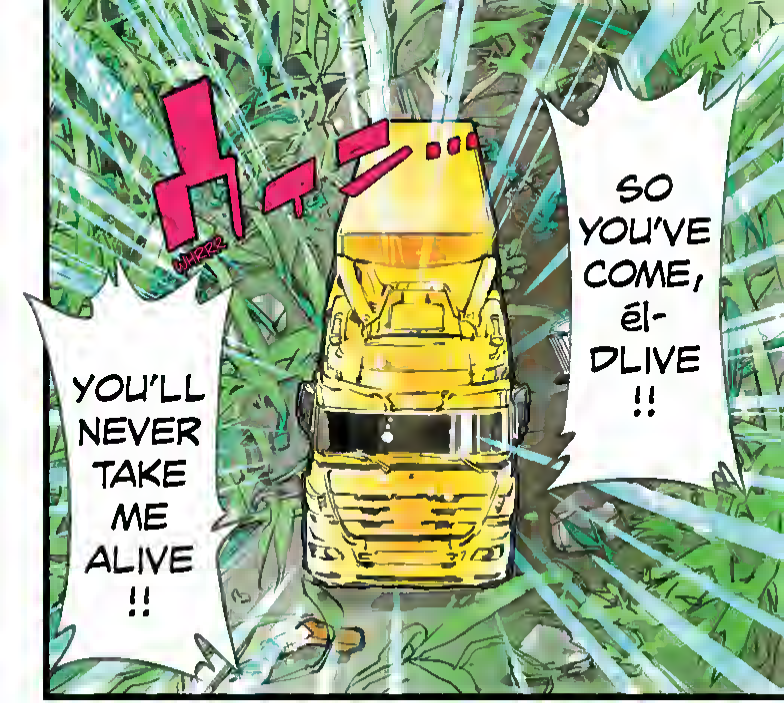

YOU'RE JUST STROLLING ACROSS THE HIGH-WAY?!
THE OTHER SIDE ...
WAIT!
THAT'S THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD.
HE'S HEADING FOR TOKYO.
LET'S LOOK FOR THAT YELLOW TRUCK-CHU!!


WHA-?!
YOU CAN SIT RIGHT THERE IF YOU'D LIKE.

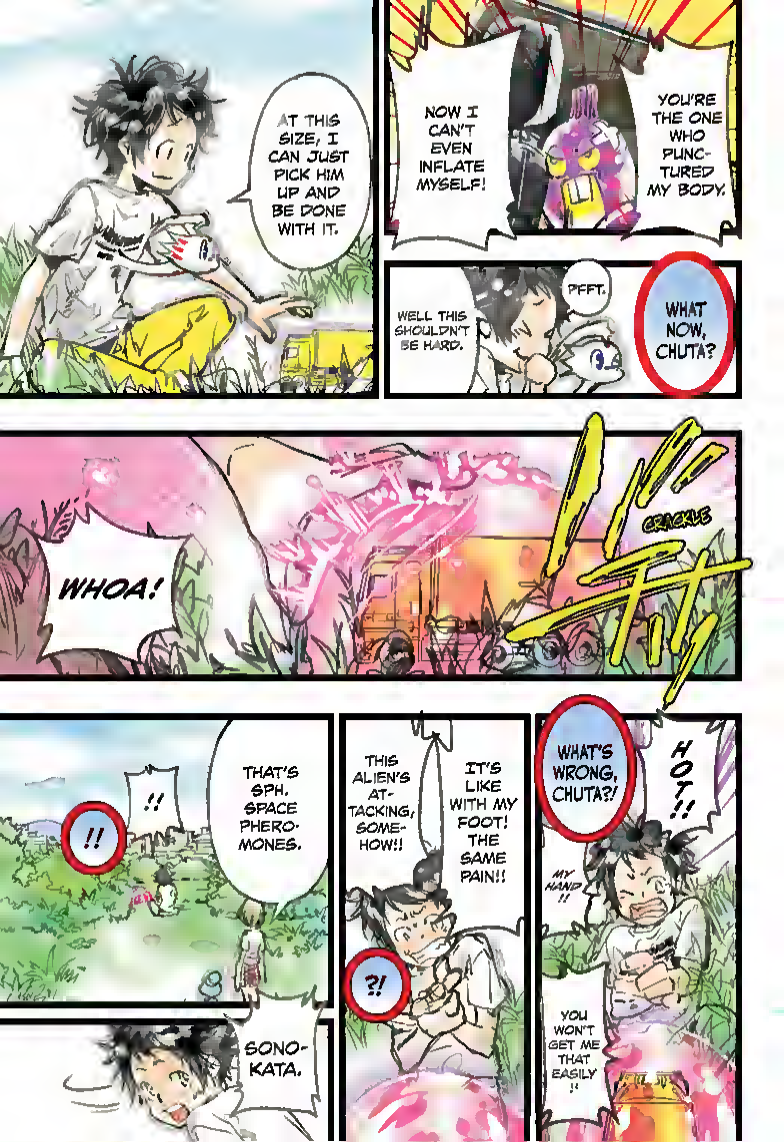

NOT GOOD!!
SCREECH
ACK!!
BEEP
BEEP


OH!
WE CAN USE THAT BRIDGE TO CROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE!
I'M GETTING OFF THIS ROAD!!
WHERE'RE YOU GOING, CHUTA?!
IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!
TUMP TUMP
THAT WAS CLOSE!!
WHOA!

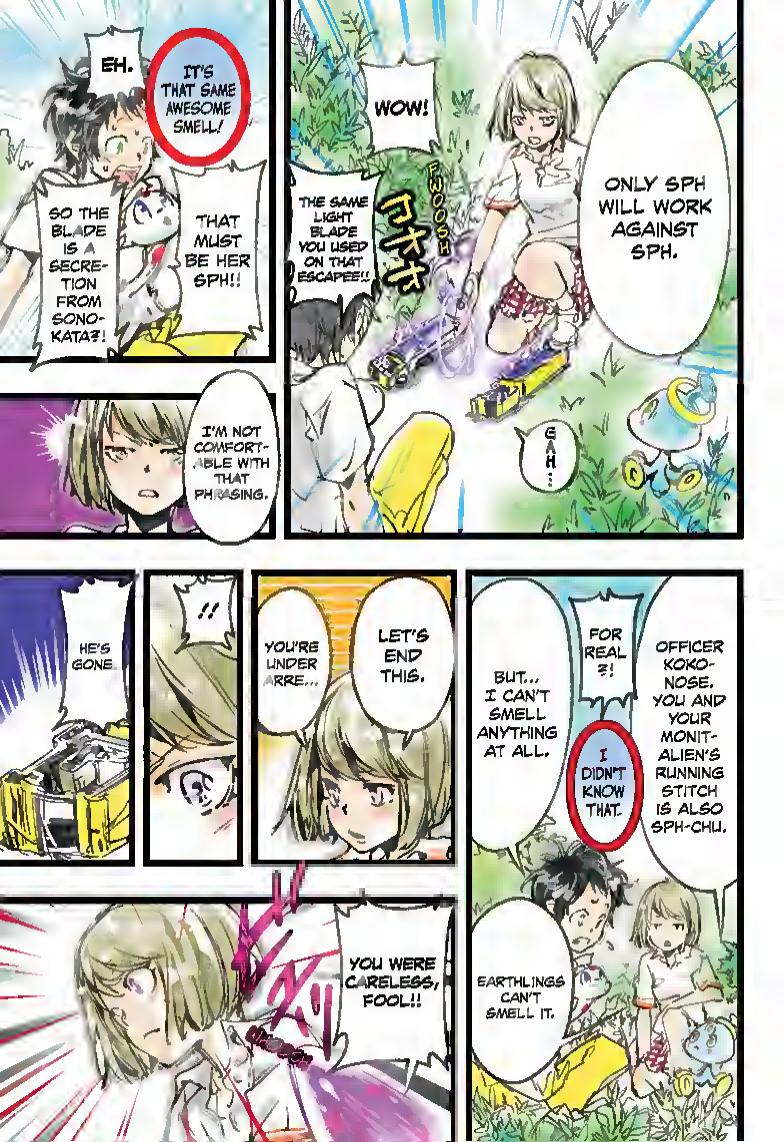

I GUESS EVEN SPACE POLICE DIE...
...HAS TO CHASE DOWN SUSPECTS ON FOOT!
RUSH
RUSH
HURRY, CHUTA!!
YEAH, YEAH!
THE CRIMINAL'S GOING TO GET AWAY!
I'M GOING AS FAST AS I CAN!
RUSH
RUSH
PANG
ARGH!
WAS IT A SNAKE?!
DON'T THINK SO, CHUTA.
THUD
YOWCH!!
SOMETHING STABBED MY FOOT!!
RRRRR
HUH?
...


ハニ…
UHZZZ
SO YOU'VE COME, él-DLIVE !!
YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME ALIVE !!

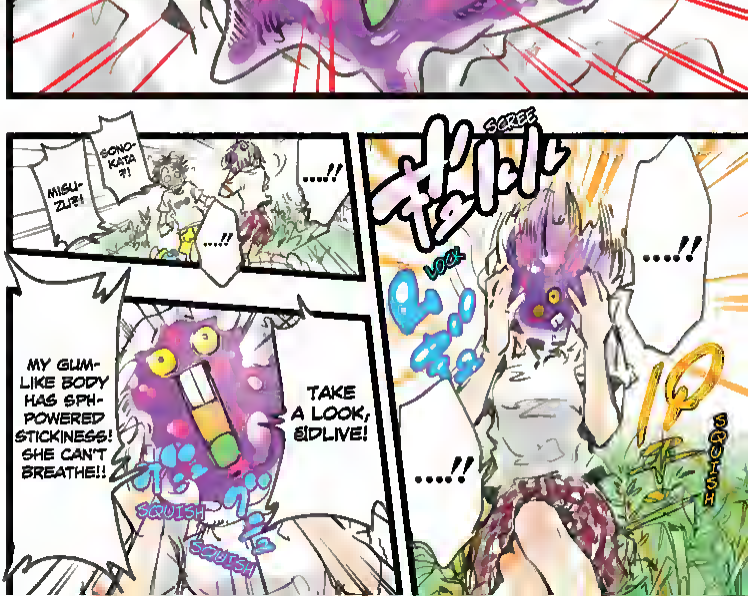
TRY ME AGAIN AND YOU DIE!!
HUH …
BUT …
NO WAY !!
LOOK, CHUTA. IT'S THE YELLOW TRUCK.
HUH ?
A TOY TRUCK ?
YOU MOCK-ING ME?!
SERROR
…IS THE ALIEN CRIMINAL ?!
HUH? THIS LITTLE GUY..

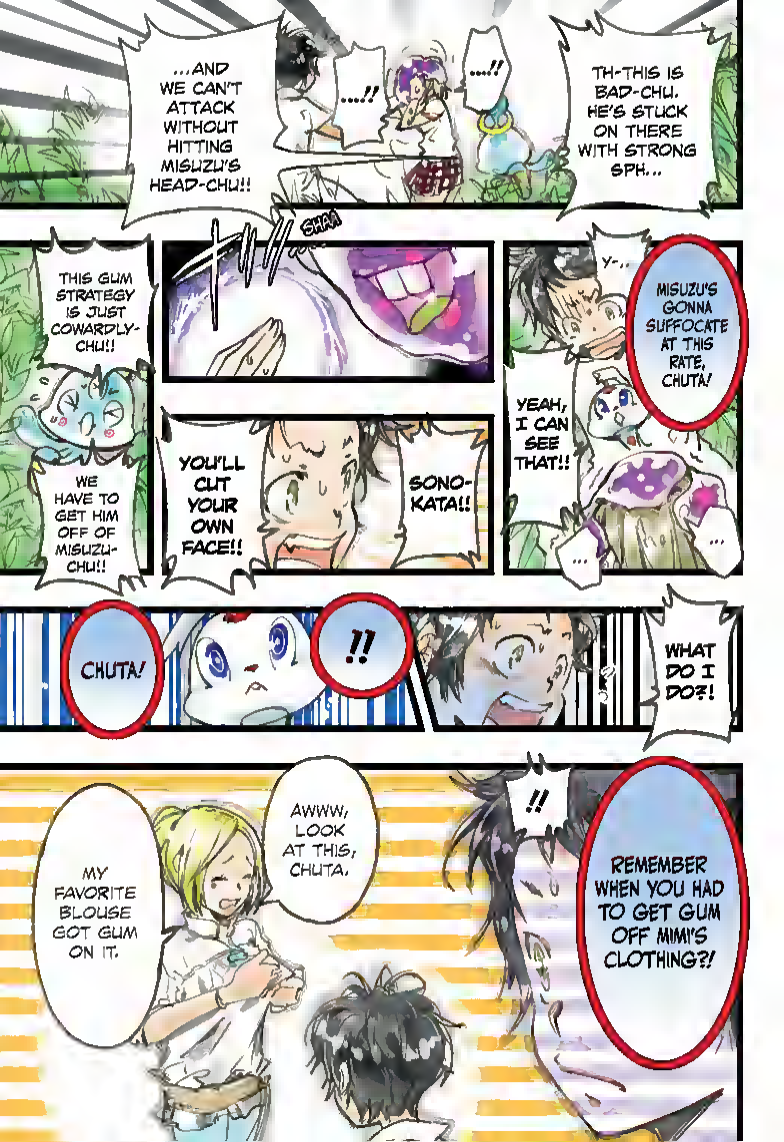

AT THIS SIZE, I CAN JUST PICK HIM UP AND BE DONE WITH IT.
NOW I CAN'T EVEN INFLATE MYSELF!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PUNC-TURED MY BODY.
WELL THIS SHOULDN'T BE HARD.
PFFT.
WHAT NOW, CHUTA?
WHOA!
CRACKLE
!!
!!
THAT'S SPH. SPACE PHERO-MONES.
SONO-KATA.
THIS ALIEN'S AT-TACKING, SOME-HOW!!
IT'S LIKE WITH MY FOOT! THE SAME PAIN!!
?!
WHAT'S WRONG, CHUTA?!
HOT.!!
MY HAND!!
YOU WON'T GET ME THAT EASILY!!

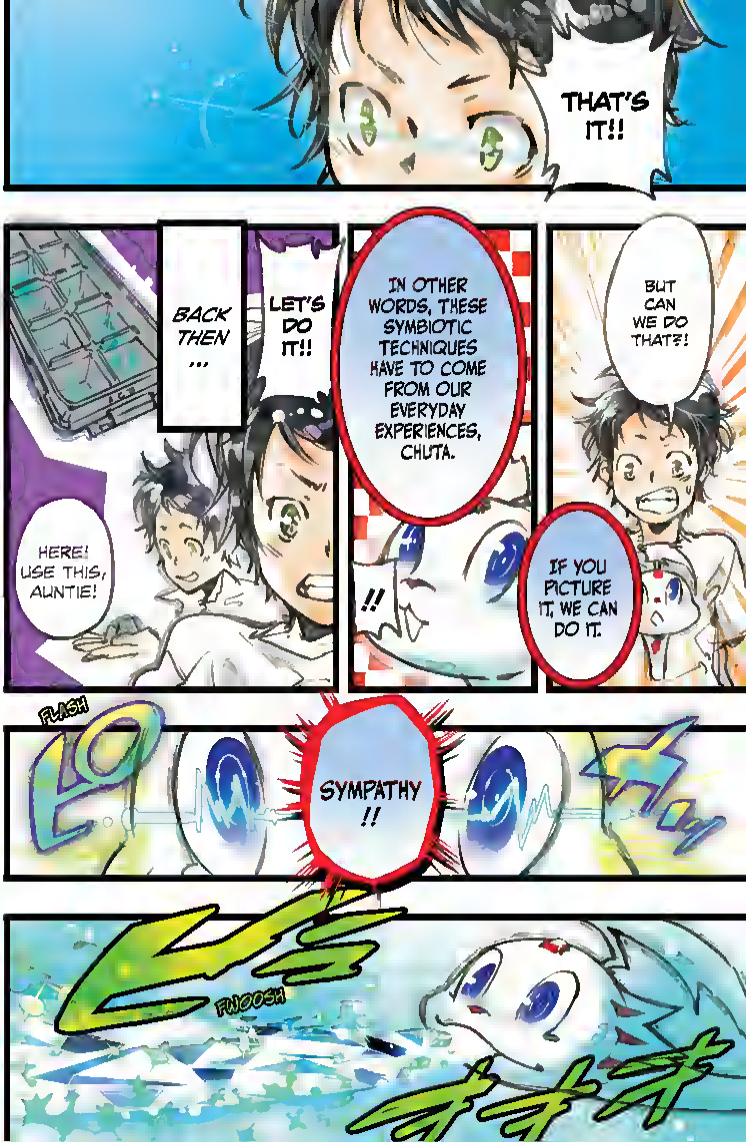
AREN'T PHEROMONES WHAT BUGS USE TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER?
HUH... THIS IS... A PHERO-MONE?
SO ORDINARY PHYSICAL ATTACKS WON'T WORK HERE.
IT'S KNOWN AS A DARK ENERGY. EARTH SCIENTISTS AREN'T EVEN AWARE OF THIS PHENOM-ENON.
THEY'RE NOT JUST FOR SIGNALING AND LURING MATES. THEY'RE SPECIAL SECRETIONS USED FOR ATTACK AND DEFENSE.
SPACE PHERO-MONES ARE A MUCH STRONGER VERSION-CHU.
HOW THE HECK DO WE CATCH THIS DAMN ALIEN?!
WELL THEN...
BOY, ëIDLIVE MUST BE GOING DOWNHILL LATELY.
YOU'RE IN ëIDLIVE AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT MUCH?!
SLASH
LIKE THIS.
SHAA

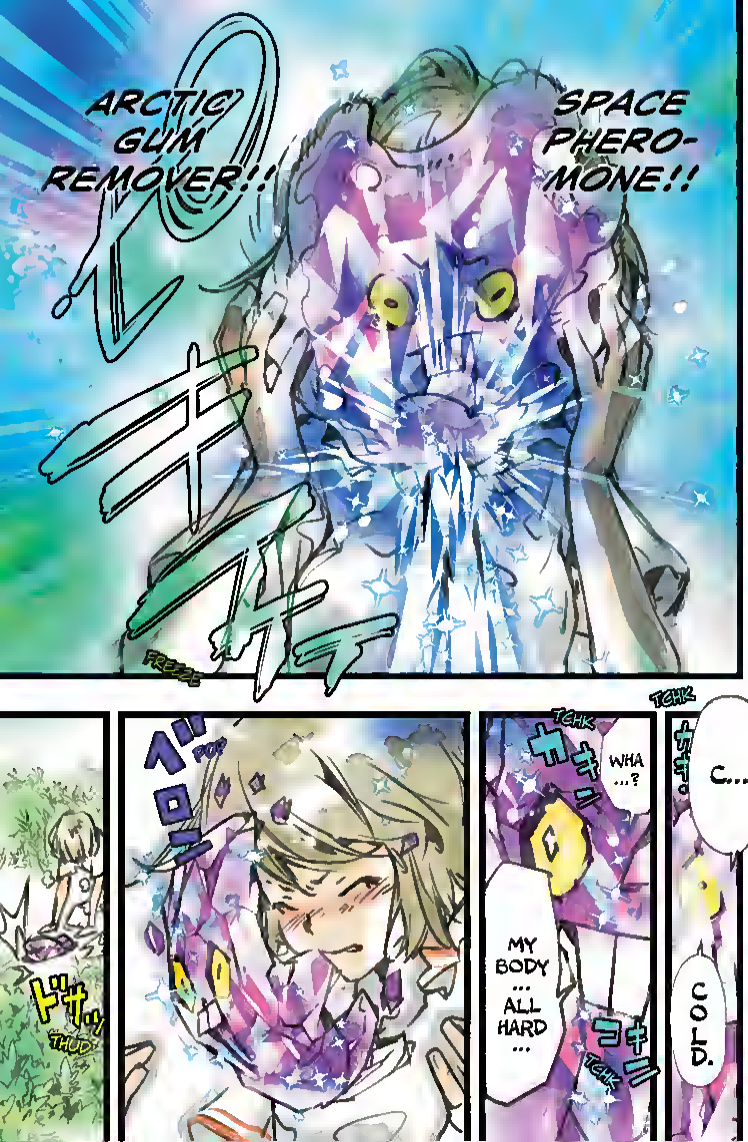

EH.
IT'S THAT SAME AWESOME SMELL!
THAT MUST BE HER SPH!!
SO THE BLADE IS A SECRETION FROM SONO-KATA?!
I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THAT PHRASING.
WOW!
FWOOSH
THE SAME LIGHT BLADE YOU USED ON THAT ESCAPEE!!
ONLY SPH WILL WORK AGAINST SPH.
GAH...
HE'S GONE.
!!
YOU'RE UNDER ARRE...
LET'S END THIS.
YOU WERE CARELESS, FOOL!!
BUT... I CAN'T SMELL ANYTHING AT ALL.
FOR REAL?!
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
OFFICER KOKO-NOSE. YOU AND YOUR MONIT-ALIEN'S RUNNING STITCH IS ALSO SPH-CHU.
EARTHLINGS CAN'T SMELL IT.

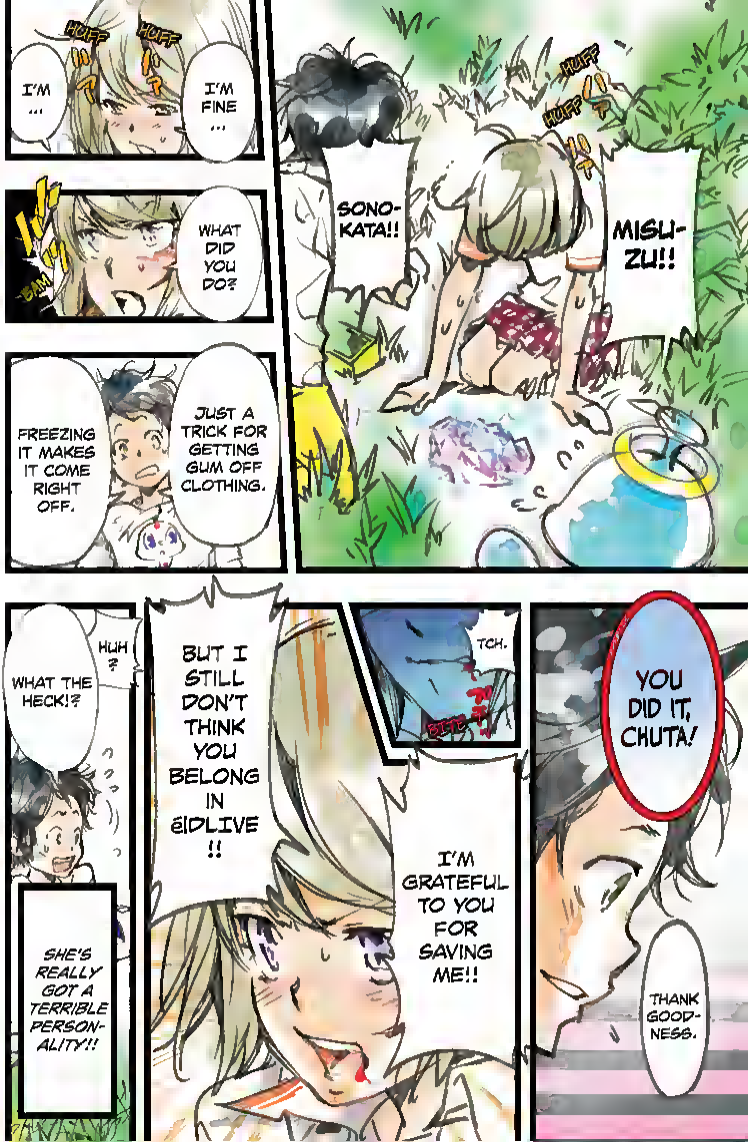
SPLAT
!!

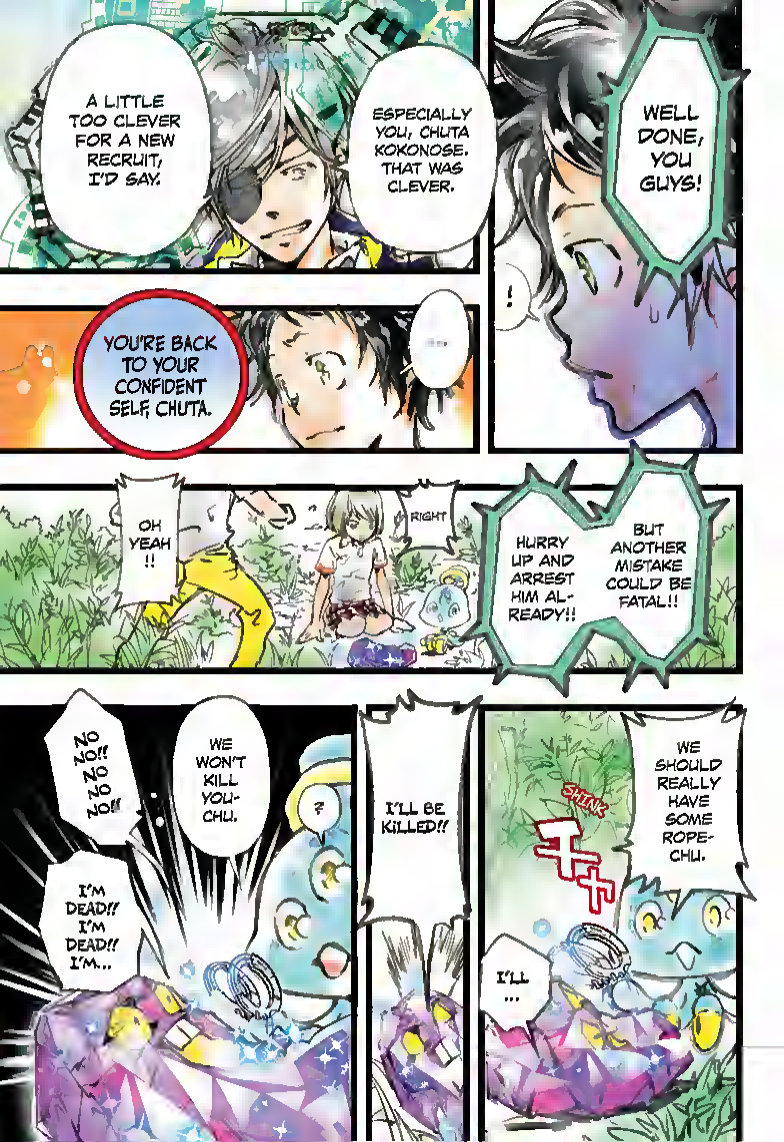

MISU-ZU?!
SONO-KATA ?!
...!!
...!!
MY GUM-LIKE BODY HAS SPH-POWERED STICKINESS! SHE CAN'T BREATHE!!
TAKE A LOOK, SIDLIVE!
SQUISH
SQUISH
SCREE
VOCK
...!!
...!!
SQUISH


...AND WE CAN'T ATTACK WITHOUT HITTING MISUZU'S HEAD-CHU!!
...!!
...!!
TH-THIS IS BAD-CHU. HE'S STUCK ON THERE WITH STRONG SPH...
THIS GUM STRATEGY IS JUST COWARDLY-CHU!!
WE HAVE TO GET HIM OFF OF MISUZU-CHU!!
SHAA
YOU'LL CUT YOUR OWN FACE!!
SONO-KATA!!
Y-..
MISUZU'S GONNA SUFFOCATE AT THIS RATE, CHUTA!
YEAH, I CAN SEE THAT!!
...
...
CHUTA!
!!
WHAT DO I DO?!
AWWW, LOOK AT THIS, CHUTA.
MY FAVORITE BLOUSE GOT GUM ON IT.
!!
REMEMBER WHEN YOU HAD TO GET GUM OFF MIMI'S CLOTHING?!


THAT'S IT!!
BUT CAN WE DO THAT?!
IF YOU PICTURE IT, WE CAN DO IT.
!!
IN OTHER WORDS, THESE SYMBIOTIC TECHNIQUES HAVE TO COME FROM OUR EVERYDAY EXPERIENCES, CHUTA.
LET'S DO IT!!
BACK THEN ...
HERE! USE THIS, AUNTIE!
FLASH
SYMPATHY !!
FWOOSH

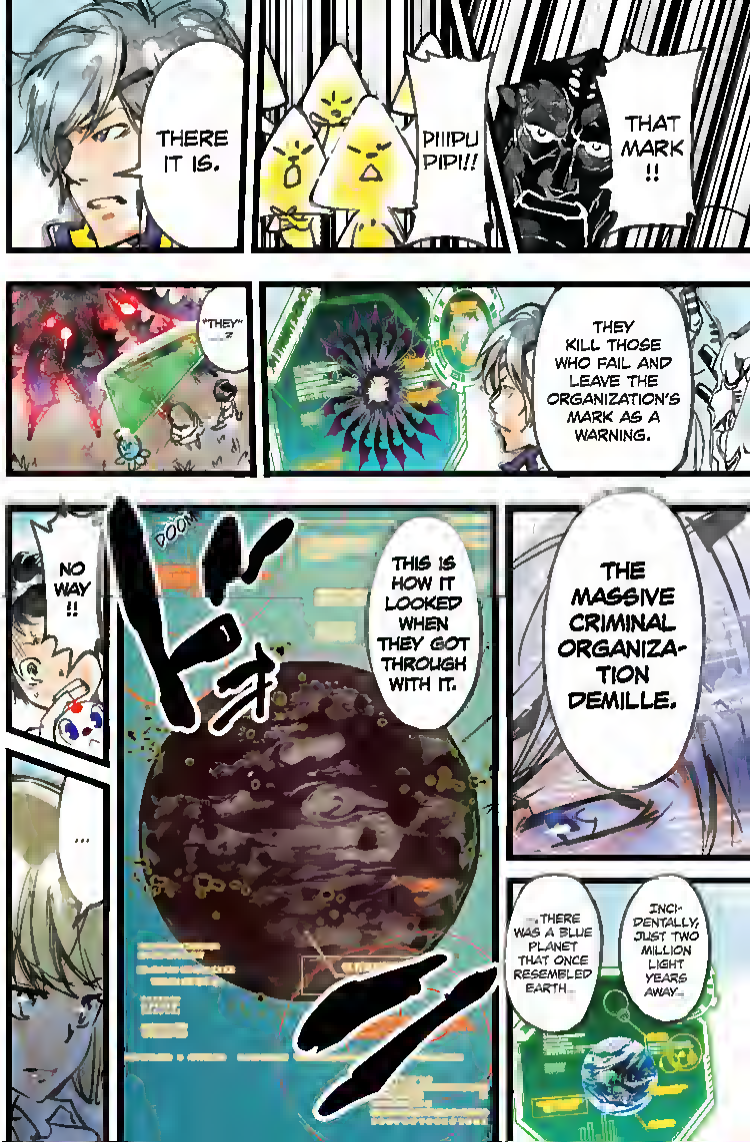

ARCTIC GUM REMOVER!!
SPACE PHERO-MONE!!
FREEZE
C...
COLD.
TCHIK
WHA...?
MY BODY... ALL HARD...
POW
THUD


HUFF
HUFF
I'M ...
I'M FINE ...
SONO-KATA!!
MISU-ZU!!
HUFF
HUFF
BAM
WHAT DID YOU DO?
JUST A TRICK FOR GETTING GUM OFF CLOTHING.
FREEZING IT MAKES IT COME RIGHT OFF.
HUH?
WHAT THE HECK!?
SHE'S REALLY GOT A TERRIBLE PERSON-ALITY!!
BUT I STILL DON'T THINK YOU BELONG IN HIDLIVE !!
TCH.
I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR SAVING ME!!
YOU DID IT, CHUTA!
THANK GOOD-NESS.


A LITTLE TOO CLEVER FOR A NEW RECRUIT, I'D SAY.
ESPECIALLY YOU, CHUTA KOKONOSE. THAT WAS CLEVER.
WELL DONE, YOU GUYS!
!
YOU'RE BACK TO YOUR CONFIDENT SELF, CHUTA.
OH YEAH !!
RIGHT
HURRY UP AND ARREST HIM AL-READY!!
BUT ANOTHER MISTAKE COULD BE FATAL!!
NO NO!! NO NO NO!!
WE WON'T KILL YOU-CHU.
?
I'M DEAD!! I'M DEAD!! I'M...
I'LL BE KILLED!!
SHINK
WE SHOULD REALLY HAVE SOME ROPE-CHU.
I'LL ...

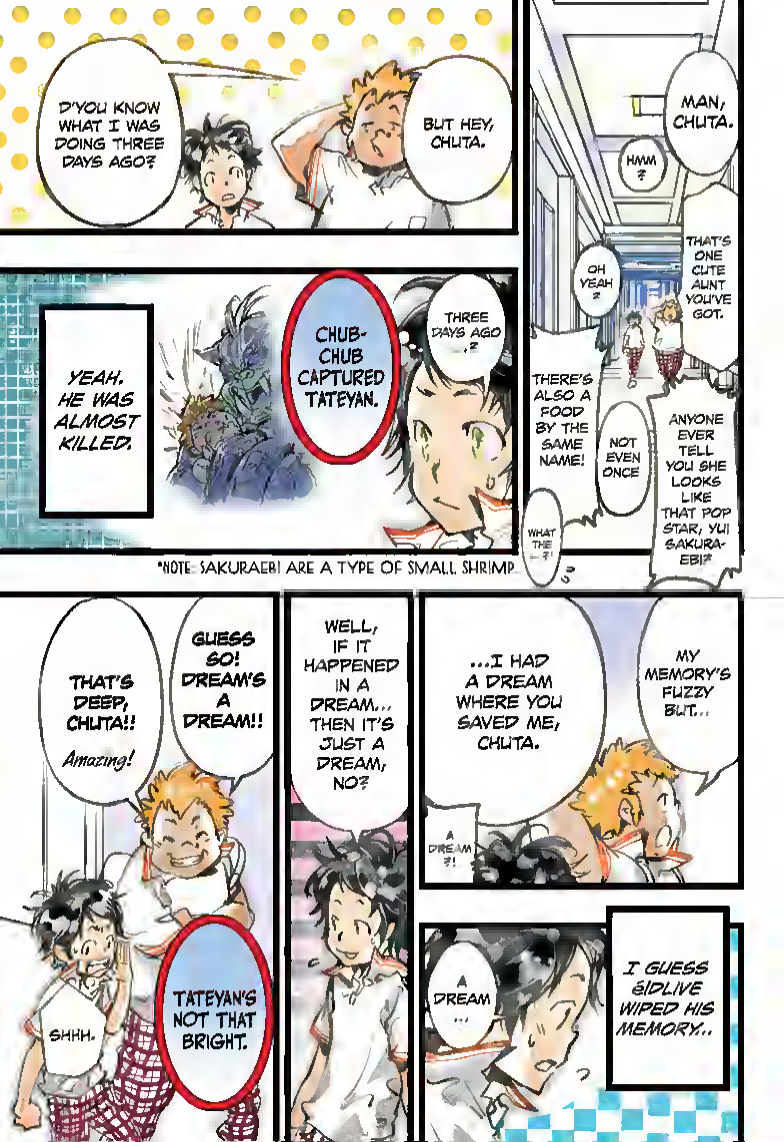
...AD.
HUH ?
GET DOWN !!
THIS IS BAD-CHU!!
I'M... DE..
BOOM
A MASSIVE SPH REAC-TION!
EVERY-ONE OKAY ?!
I'M FINE-CHU.
YES.
OW OW ...
SMELLS GOOD ...
NNN...

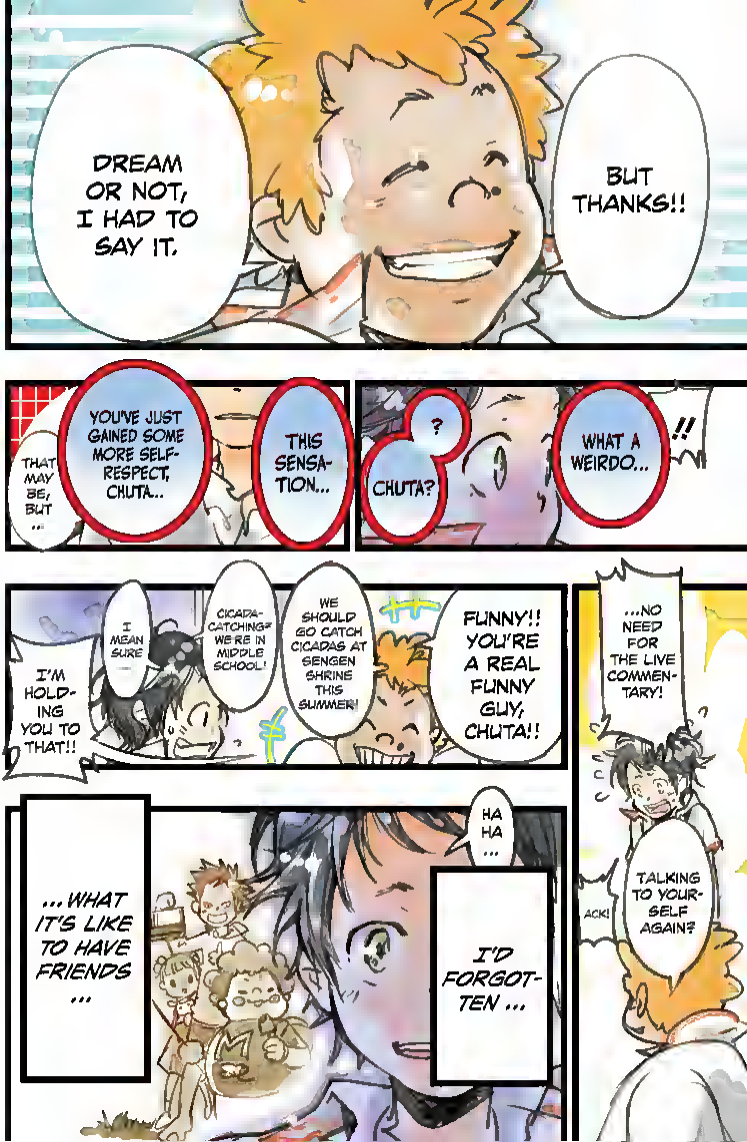
SO CLOSE !!
!!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN ?!
NOW DON'T MAKE ME OWE YOU AGAIN.
I'VE REPAID THE DEBT.
HE LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND-CHU!!
LOOK-CHU!!
FSSSHHH
シュウウウ。
THAT'S ...!

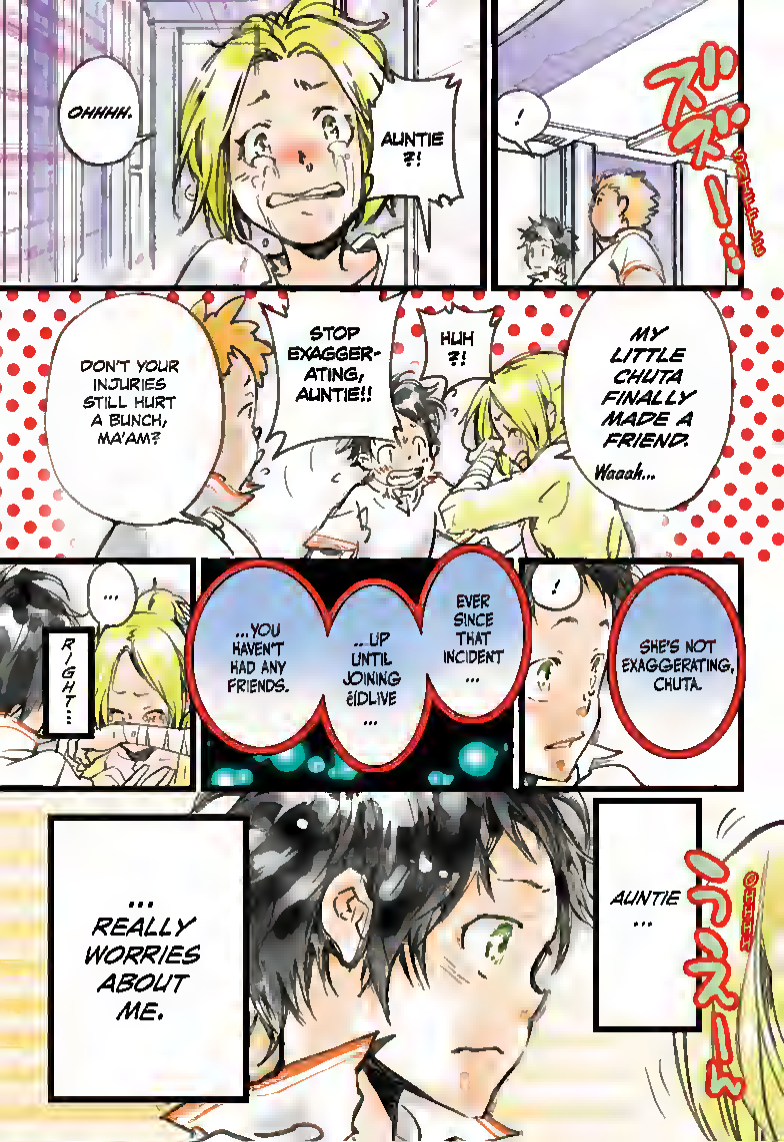

THERE IT IS.
PIIIPU PIPI!!
THAT MARK !!
"THEY" ...
THEY KILL THOSE WHO FAIL AND LEAVE THE ORGANIZATION'S MARK AS A WARNING.
NO WAY !!
DOOM
THIS IS HOW IT LOOKED WHEN THEY GOT THROUGH WITH IT.
THE MASSIVE CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION DEMILLE.
...
...THERE WAS A BLUE PLANET THAT ONCE RESEMBLED EARTH...
INCIDENTALLY, JUST TWO MILLION LIGHT YEARS AWAY...

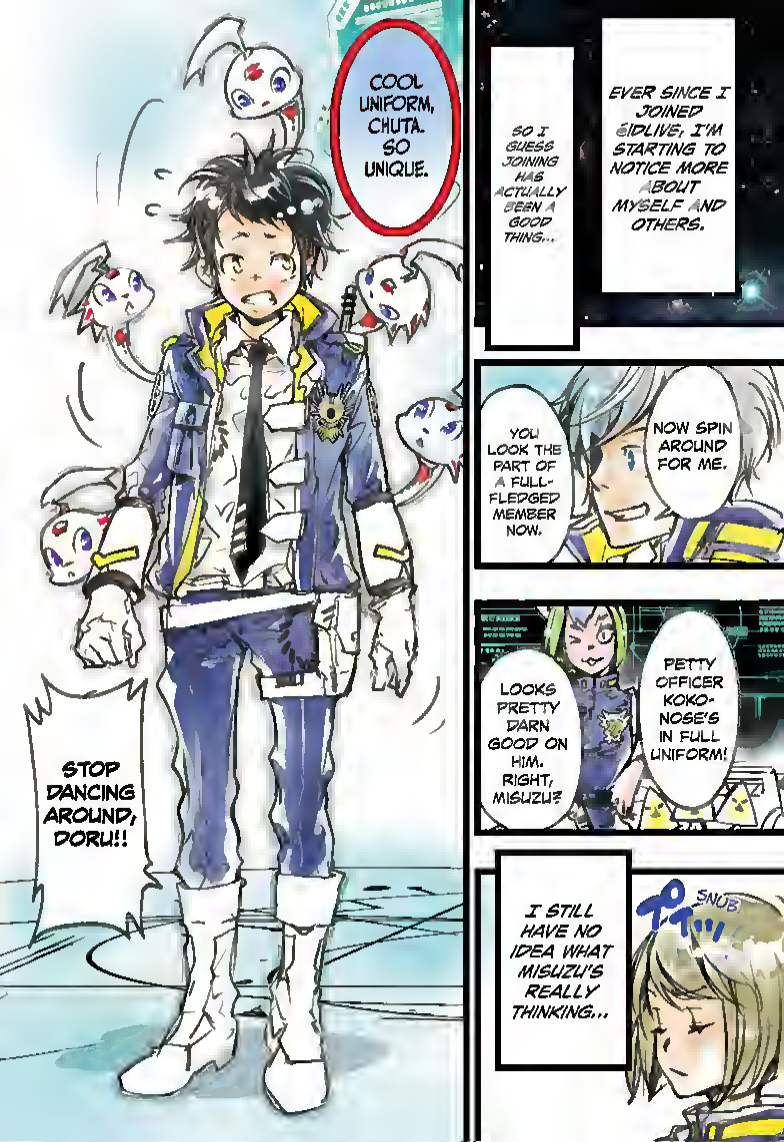
WE NEED TO BE PREPARED.
INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT THEY'RE NOW TARGETING EARTH.
YOYO-SA!
AH...
THESE BADDIES, ARE COMING TO EARTH?
WHAT'S WRONG, CHUTA?
YOYOSA!!
LOST YOUR NERVE, HAVE YOU?
THERE'S THE HOT-BLOODED KID I KNOW!
HA HA HA HA
!!
I-I'M SHAKING WITH EXCITE-MENT!!
HUH?
YEAH...
GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...

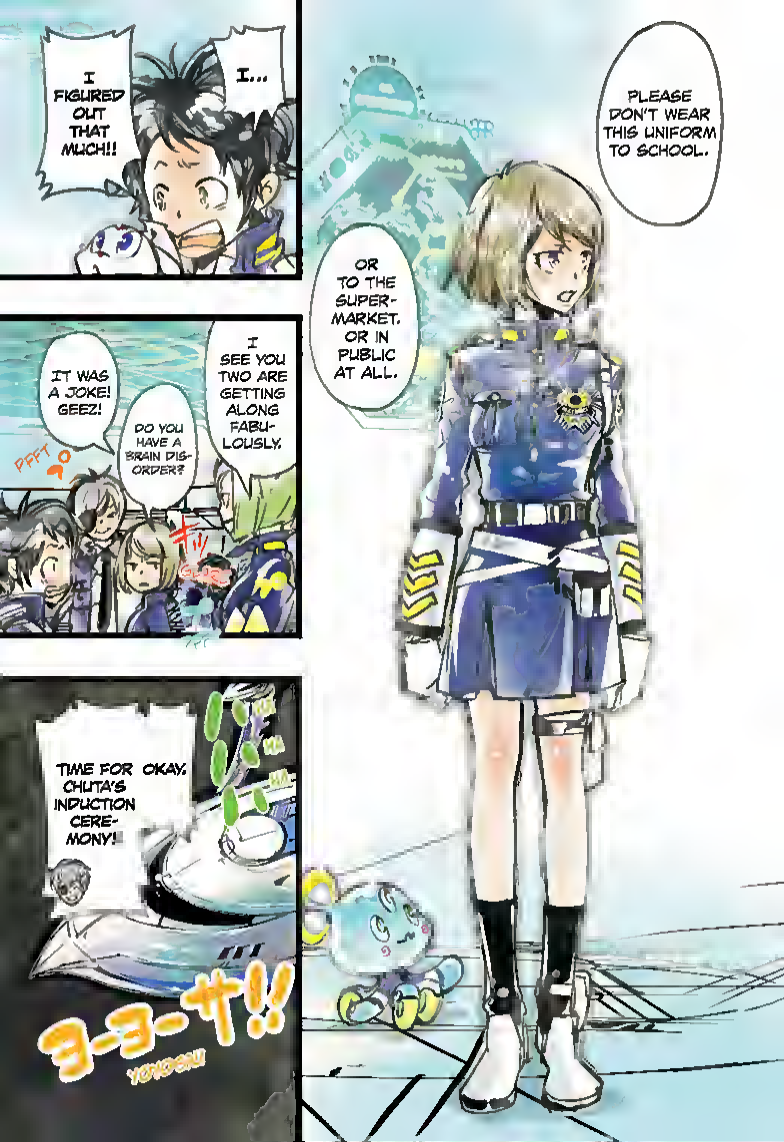
I'VE BROUGHT CLOTHES FOR YOU TO COME HOME IN.
AUNTIE.
SORRY, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT'D HAPPENED WHEN I INVITED YOU TO THAT GAME!
TATEYAN!! BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW MY AUNT...?
HUH?
ONE OF YOUR CLASS-MATES IS HERE.
GOOD TIMING!
HEYA.
SURE!
OKAY ...
WHY DON'T YOU TWO GO GET SOME SODAS? IT'S ON ME.
I'LL TAKE A SPRITE !!
TH-THANKS!
HE EVEN BROUGHT ME SOME GET-WELL CRACKERS.
I ASKED THE CANDY STORE LADY! MY MOM TOLD ME TO COME BY AND SAY HI.

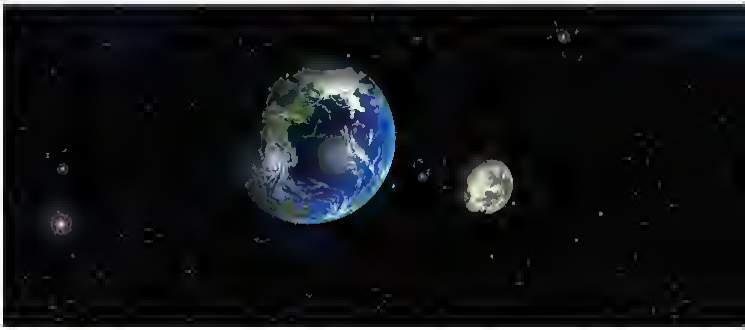

D'YOU KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING THREE DAYS AGO?
BUT HEY, CHUTA.
MAN, CHUTA.
HMM ?
THAT'S ONE CUTE AUNT YOU'VE GOT.
OH YEAH ?
THERE'S ALSO A FOOD BY THE SAME NAME!
NOT EVEN ONCE
ANYONE EVER TELL YOU SHE LOOKS LIKE THAT POP STAR, YUI SAKURA-EBI?
WHAT THE —?!
YEAH. HE WAS ALMOST KILLED.
CHUB-CHUB CAPTURED TATEYAN.
THREE DAYS AGO ...?
*NOTE: SAKURAEBI ARE A TYPE OF SMALL SHRIMP.
THAT'S DEEP, CHUTA!!
Amazing!
GUESS SO! DREAM'S A DREAM!!
SHHH.
TATEYAN'S NOT THAT BRIGHT.
WELL, IF IT HAPPENED IN A DREAM... THEN IT'S JUST A DREAM, NO?
...I HAD A DREAM WHERE YOU SAVED ME, CHUTA.
MY MEMORY'S FUZZY BUT...
A DREAM ?!
A DREAM ...
I GUESS SIDLIVE WIPED HIS MEMORY..

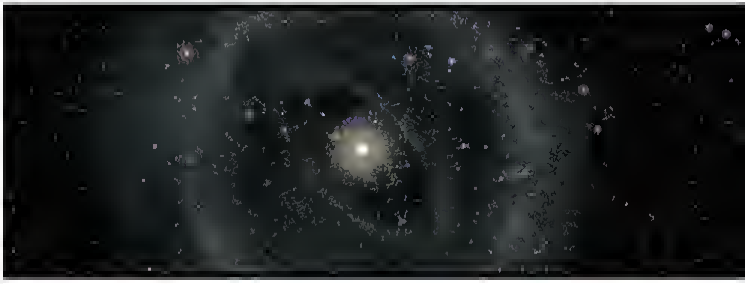

DREAM OR NOT, I HAD TO SAY IT.
BUT THANKS!!
THAT MAY BE, BUT...
YOU'VE JUST GAINED SOME MORE SELF-RESPECT, CHUTA...
THIS SENSATION...
CHUTA?
?
WHAT A WEIRDO...
!!
I'M HOLDING YOU TO THAT!!
I MEAN SURE
CICADA-CATCHING? WE'RE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!
WE SHOULD GO CATCH CICADAS AT SENGEN SHRINE THIS SUMMER!
FUNNY!! YOU'RE A REAL FUNNY GUY, CHUTA!!
...NO NEED FOR THE LIVE COMMENTARY!
ACK!
TALKING TO YOURSELF AGAIN?
...WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE FRIENDS...
I'D FORGOTTEN...
HA HA...

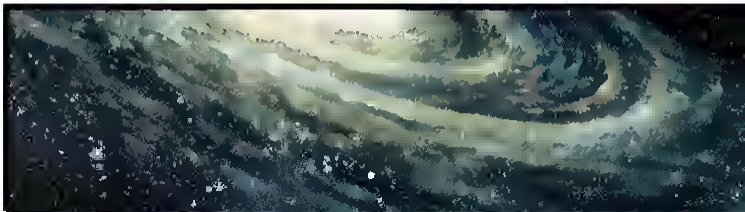

OHHHH.
AUNTIE ?!
!
ズズン!!
MY LITTLE CHUTA FINALLY MADE A FRIEND.
Waaah...
HUH ?!
STOP EXAGGERATING, AUNTIE!!
DON'T YOUR INJURIES STILL HURT A BUNCH, MA'AM?
...
RIGHT...
...YOU HAVEN'T HAD ANY FRIENDS.
...UP UNTIL JOINING EIDLIVE ...
EVER SINCE THAT INCIDENT ...
!
SHE'S NOT EXAGGERATING, CHUTA.
AUNTIE ...
こころ
...REALLY WORRIES ABOUT ME.


COOL UNIFORM, CHUTA. SO UNIQUE.
STOP DANCING AROUND, DORU!!
SO I GUESS JOINING HAS ACTUALLY BEEN A GOOD THING...
EVER SINCE I JOINED GIDLIVE, I'M STARTING TO NOTICE MORE ABOUT MYSELF AND OTHERS.
YOU LOOK THE PART OF A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER NOW.
NOW SPIN AROUND FOR ME.
LOOKS PRETTY DARN GOOD ON HIM. RIGHT, MISUZU?
PETTY OFFICER KOKO-NOSE'S IN FULL UNIFORM!
I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT MISUZU'S REALLY THINKING...
SNUB


I FIGURED OUT THAT MUCH!!
I...
IT WAS A JOKE! GEEZ!
DO YOU HAVE A BRAIN DISORDER?
I SEE YOU TWO ARE GETTING ALONG FABULOUSLY.
PFFT
TIME FOR CHUTA'S INDUCTION CEREMONY!
ヨーヨーサ!!
YOYOSA!!
PLEASE DON'T WEAR THIS UNIFORM TO SCHOOL.
OR TO THE SUPERMARKET. OR IN PUBLIC AT ALL.

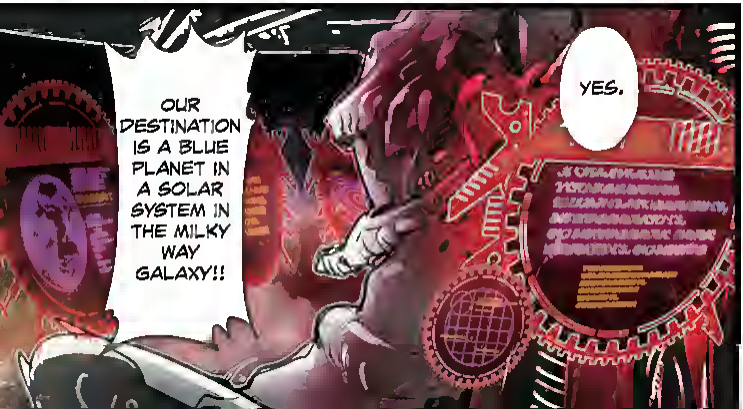






ゴゴゴゴ
WRRR.
WRRR.

COMMENCE LIGHT-SPEED NAVIGATION !!
REALLY, CAPTAIN ?!


YES.
OUR DESTINATION IS A BLUE PLANET IN A SOLAR SYSTEM IN THE MILKY WAY GALAXY!!

THAT'S THE END OF THIS JUMP START RUN
DON'T FORGET TO FILL OUT THE WEEKLY SURVEY